C852-B63 PREX 7.10:FBIS-EAS-91-033

50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-033
Tuesday
19 February 1991

JB 99-014295

COMPLETE

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-033 *19 February 1991*

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Japan

USSR's Primakov on Iraqi Withdrawal Offer

Grants Interview to NHK TV

OW1602055691 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Mr. Primakov, the special envoy of Soviet President Gorbachev who is performing a mediatory role in the wake of the Iraq's announcement on their conditional withdrawal from Kuwait, granted an interview to NHK, and said that Iraq's announcement should be turned into a starting point toward peace.

[Begin Primakov recording in Russian with Japanese translation provided as subtitles] This announcement is a forward-looking one; a political solution should be sought based on this. However, I do not think we should be tied to the thinking that this statement may be the final starting point for a political solution. Nonetheless, the fact that Iraq has accepted the UN resolution is a step forward.

The security in the Middle East should be one that is universal in nature. In other words, it should encompass not only the Persian Gulf but the whole of the Middle East. The security structure should include Israel and the countries surrounding it. [end recording]

Mr. Primakov further said it is necessary that this security structure incorporate measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, like nuclear, chemical, and biological arms. The most important mission of this structure would be to fix the borders in the Middle East, he added. The Palestinian question must therefore be resolved if only for this reason, he insisted.

Calls Iraqi Offer 'Starting Point'

OW1602081191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0640 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO—Yevgeniy Primakov, a close aide to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, said Saturday that Iraq's announcement it is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait marks the starting point of a political solution to the Persian Gulf war and that it should not be ignored.

Referring to a planned visit by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Moscow on Sunday, Primakov also said that the Kremlin will make every effort to assure a peaceful withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Primakov made the remarks in a brief interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE before meeting with Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), formerly known as the Japan Socialist Party. Primakov visited Baghdad on Monday as Gorbachev's personal envoy and met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to seek an end to the war.

Iraq said Friday that it would accept a U.N. Security Council resolution to withdraw from Kuwait, but reiterated its demand for a linkage of its pullout to an overall settlement of the Middle East problem, including an Israeli withdrawal from its occupied territories. The U.N. resolution, however, calls for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the oil-rich emirate. U.S. President George Bush rejected the Iraqi withdrawal proposal, describing it as "cruel hoax."

In a 40-minute meeting with Doi, Primakov was quoted as saying that it depends on the outcome of 'Aziz's visit to Moscow whether the peace process to end the war will be further developed. Primakov also said that it is not good to immediately refuse the Iraqi overture but warned that it is only the starting point of the peace process, according to SDP officials.

Says Iraq To Clarify Intentions

OW1602122991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO—Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone agreed Saturday on a two-stage process to end the Persian Gulf war, sources close to Nakasone said.

Nakasone and Primakov, a close aide to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev who came to Japan after meeting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, reached agreement at a two-hour meeting over lunch at a Tokyo hotel. They agreed Iraq should set a timetable for its unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, paving the way for negotiations on a peaceful settlement of the crisis, the sources said. The two officials concurred that a cease-fire be enforced during an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait and peace negotiations begin after a substantial number of Iraqi troops have quit the emirate.

Primakov told Nakasone that a conditional withdrawal proposed Friday by the Revolutionary Command Council headed by Hussein should be regarded as a message of peace from Iraq. In a broadcast on Radio Baghdad, Iraq offered to pull out from Kuwait but reiterated its demand for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Primakov earlier told KYODO News Service that Iraq's announcement Friday marks the starting point of a political solution to the war and it should not be ignored. The Soviet envoy told Nakasone the next five days or a week will be an important period during which Baghdad is expected to make clear its intentions concerning peace in the region. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is scheduled to visit Moscow on Sunday. He said Friday's Iraqi proposal contained complex elements involving the country's existence and its basic approaches toward domestic and external problems, the sources said.

Iraq should indicate the timetable for its withdrawal from Kuwait to expedite an end to the war, Primakov said. He said the Soviet Union maintains close contact with the United States in trying to restore peace in line with resolutions of the U.N. Security Council.

Moscow is ready to take concerted action with Japan, China, and Iran, which have not joined the multinational force, to bring about peace in the Middle East, Primakov said. He asked Nakasone to cooperate in Moscow's peace efforts, the sources said.

Primakov also met Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party, formerly known as the Japan Socialist Party.

Departs Following 3-Day Visit

OW1702040991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO—Soviet Envoy Yevgeniy Primakov left Tokyo for home Sunday, ending a three-day visit to Japan.

Primakov, a close aide to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, held talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and other government leaders on ways to end the Persian Gulf war.

A former Presidential Council member, Primakov came to Tokyo Friday after a visit to Baghdad where he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussayn on the conflict. He is expected to join talks between Gorbachev and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Moscow Monday.

During his stay in Tokyo, Primakov met with former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, and they agreed that a two-phased plan should be used to attain peace. Iraq first should set a timetable for its withdrawal from Kuwait, then peace negotiations could begin, they said.

Bessmertnykh 'Tentatively' To Visit 16-19 Apr

OW1802113391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Japan is looking forward to an early visit to Tokyo by Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh before President Mikhail Gorbachev comes here in April, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

Japan awaits the new foreign minister "at least half a month" before Gorbachev's visit to Japan tentatively set for April 16-19, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, who is in Moscow for talks with Soviet officials concerning a bilateral peace pact, will probably meet with Bessmertnykh but a date has yet to be arranged, he said.

Bessmertnykh succeeded Eduard Shevardnadze as Soviet foreign minister last month.

To Brief on 'Aziz-Gorbachev Talks

OW1802103491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Japan holds hope that the Moscow meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz will lead to peace in the Persian Gulf, a top-level Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The official said Japan is closely watching the outcome of the talks, and that Tokyo hopes Iraq will accept the U.N. Security Council resolution demanding its immediate and unconditional pullout from Kuwait.

The official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity, said Iraq's peace offer last week was new in that Baghdad mentioned withdrawing its troops from Kuwait for the first time. But he said Iraq set conditions for its pullout so that its proposal is still far from what the United Nations has demanded. "Therefore we hope the Soviet Union will persuade Iraq into accepting the resolution, and Baghdad will as a result start moving toward that goal," the official said.

Another top ministry official Monday said Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will brief Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, who currently is in Moscow, on the outcome of the 'Aziz-Gorbachev talks. That same official also said it was not known if Owada would try to meet with 'Aziz in Moscow.

Owada is in Moscow for talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev aimed at concluding a Japan-Soviet peace treaty.

Nakayama: Iraqi Announcement 'New Development'

OW1502171091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1626 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Addition to an item published in the 15 February East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 4, column 1, headlined "Kaifu on Analyzing Iraq's 'True Intentions'."]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 15 KYODO—After meeting with Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said the announcement was a new development although he does not think it answers the demands of Japan and other countries that the United Nations Security Council resolutions be completely fulfilled.

"I do feel that a new development has emerged," he said. "I think it's a message (from Iraq) to the world." But Nakayama said, "there are too many conditions attached, so in that sense there is a major conflict with what is contained in Security Council Resolution 660."

"It will be difficult for talks to progress if such conditions are attached," he added.

Nakayama said that he will summon Iraqi Ambassador Rashid al- Rifa'i to ask him to call on Baghdad to abide by all the resolutions passed since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Watanabe, Iraqi Envoy Meet on Withdrawal Offer

OW1602050191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] In a meeting this morning with Mr. Watanabe, director general of the Foreign Ministry Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, Iraqi Ambassador to Japan al-Rifa'i said that Iraq's announcement yesterday is a contribution by Iraq toward peace, and that he hopes the international community will give it earnest study. The ambassador conveyed to him the Iraqi position that unless the conditions given in the announcement are met, Iraq will not pull out of Kuwait.

Mr. Watanabe said at the meeting that Japan is carefully studying the announcement with much interest. He said that since Japan respects the UN resolutions, it is taking the stand that Iraq's immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait is essential. Noting that there were many conditions attached to yesterday's announcement, he formally conveyed the Japanese Government's stand that Iraq's announcement attaching conditions to its withdrawal from Kuwait is unacceptable.

Director General Watanabe said, on the other hand, that the government is taking note of the fact that the announcement did mention Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and refer to the UN resolution 660. Saying that a key to peace is in the hands of President Husayn, Mr. Watanabe called on Iraq not to cling to the announced conditions but to pull out of Kuwait first. He asked that this stand of the Japanese Government be relayed to the Iraqi Government.

In response, Ambassador al-Rifa'i said that Iraq's announcement yesterday did not come from Iraq's position as a weak country, but came in acceptance of the hopes of many nations. Iraq is willing to withdraw from Kuwait, but it is clear that several conditions indicated in the announcement must be realized, he added. He insisted that the announcement is a contribution by Iraq toward peace and that it should be given earnest study by the international community. He thus expressed the Iraqi position that unless the conditions given in the announcement are fulfilled, Iraq will not withdraw.

Ambassador al-Rifa'i then expressed the hope that Japan, as a member of the international community, will work on the United States so that the latter will respond to the Iraqi announcement in a forward-looking manner.

Further Report on Meeting

OW1602070491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO—Japan urged Iraq on Saturday to faithfully implement a United Nations resolution calling for the country's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The appeal was made by Makoto Watanabe, head of the ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, in a meeting with Iraqi Ambassador to Japan Rashid M.S. al-Rifa'i, the officials said.

Watanabe summoned the Iraqi envoy to the ministry and called on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to make a political decision to restore peace in the Middle East, they said. Watanabe told Al-Rifa'i Baghdad's acceptance of U.N. Resolution No. 660, calling for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, is a prerequisite for ending the Persian Gulf war, the officials said. Al-Rifa'i said the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council's announcement Friday is a peace overture and the conditions attached to it should be implemented to pave the way for Iraq to quit Kuwait, they said. The Iraqi announcement calls for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories on the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Al-Rifa'i stressed that the peace overture did not signal a weak position on the part of Iraq and it should be given serious consideration by the international community, the officials said.

Noting that the U.N. resolution calls for an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, Watanabe urged Baghdad to fully implement the resolution. Watanabe expressed regret at Iraq's proposal for a conditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's representative in Japan, Bakr 'Abd-al-Mun'im, welcomed the Iraqi move as a step toward peace in the Middle East. Munem told a news conference in Fukuoka on Saturday the Gulf war is linked to the Palestine issue and the two questions should be solved at the same time. He claimed that the United States has done little for the resolution of the Palestinian question and said the presence of a huge number of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia is aimed at retaining the country's oil interest in the region.

Government sources, meanwhile, said the peace overture reflected the Iraqi president's weakness and his attempt to delay the ground war being planned by the U.S.-led multinational forces. The sources said the Iraqi offer is unacceptable and the government has no intention at present of reconsidering its plan to contribute an additional 9 billion dollars for the Gulf war.

Interview With Iraqi Envoy on Withdrawal Proposal

OW1602140791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1056 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Interview with Iraqi Ambassador to Japan Rashid al-Rifa'i by Hatsuhisa Takashima in Tokyo on 16 February—recorded; in English with superimposed Japanese translation]

[Text] [Takashima] People seem puzzled by the Iraqi statement. Would you please clarify Iraq's intentions?

[Al-Rifa'i] Our proposal is very clear. It first states our affirmation that Iraq, for its part, is ready to deal with UN Security Council Resolution 660 and is ready to withdraw, but in order for this to happen certain conditions must be met. We have clearly explained these conditions. We feel that our proposal is very realistic. If something substantial must be done to achieve peace, I think our proposal is very realistic. I cannot understand why you are puzzled. It is true that we have made a general proposal, but it is a basis for working out further arrangements later.

[Takashima] You said that Iraq would deal with the UN resolutions. Does this mean you will comply with the resolutions?

[Al-Rifa'i] When we say we are ready to deal with the resolutions, it means that we have agreed to talk. Let us hold talks on the resolutions. It means we have agreed to have talks. Anyway, let us sit down at the negotiating table. It does not matter who we talk to, whether it be the United Nations or the United States. In fact, it is the United States which is at war with us.

[Takashima] As has been mentioned, President Bush rejected the Iraqi statement and said that bombardment of Iraqi troops would continue.

[Al-Rifa'i] Yes, that is the true intention of the United States, Bush, and the multinational forces. They say they want to liberate Kuwait. If so, the chance has come for talks on our withdrawal from Kuwait. They are trying to reject this chance, however, which shows that they have other intentions. We have maintained this all along. We have said that they have other plans and intentions about Iraq and this region. This has become clear to the world, our people, and the people in the region. Our proposal has garnered favorable reaction from other nations. They have responded positively. The multinational forces have flatly rejected our proposal. Some members of the multinational forces feel that talks should be held or that there are points in the proposal that should be discussed in a positive way. I hope that the proposal can be taken in this way. I hope that our proposal will be discussed as a way of actually settling problems and to help avoid bloodshed and destruction. Otherwise, it will lead to war. Once a war starts, it is hard to know how it might be ended, how long it will continue, and how large in scale it will be.

[Takashima] As far as international public opinion is concerned, the withdrawal from Kuwait must be unconditional. That is, there should be no conditions attached.

[Al-Rifa'i] International opinion is divided on this point. Only the United States and its allies in the multinational forces have rejected our proposal. A majority of other nations have agreed that these issues are linked. That is to say, the same UN Security Council has adopted resolutions on the Palestine issue or the occupation of the Golan Heights or the occupation of Lebanon, just as it has done on Kuwait. Therefore, there is linkage because the same organization has adopted these resolutions. It is an unrealistic approach to say that the linkage or relationship does not exist. The linkage exists. No matter what they say, the fact that talks on such issues have to be held indicates the existence of such a linkage.

[Takashima] Well, the conviction about no linkage must be one of the reasons why the United States has rejected the Iraqi proposal. Might Iraq change its proposal following this rejection?

[Al-Rifa'i] We have made the proposal; it was worked out following consultations with our allies and friendly nations. It was worked out after consultations with the Soviet Union. We feel that this is a good start. What happens next will depend on the outcome of negotiations. I think this is a good beginning for negotiations. We have already received favorable responses throughout the world which say it should be studied in a positive way. Only the Bush administration has rejected our proposal.

[Takashima] Do you think that this meeting will create better conditions for attaining a peaceful solution?

[Al-Rifa'i] A new atmosphere has been created. For example, a new atmosphere has been developing among the Soviet Union, Iran, and Iraq, as well as other nations in the region. We hope that such an atmosphere will be expanded. It is necessary for the achievement of peace and for preventing bloodshed and destruction. We have always made efforts for peace.

[Takashima] Reports from Saudi Arabia indicate that even today, Scud missiles have been launched against Al Jubayl where the salt water distillation plant is located. What are battle plans for the immediate future?

[Al-Rifa'i] As long as someone is taking aggressive action against us, we will protect ourselves and defend our nation. If we are attacked, we will launch counterattacks. Is it not natural for us to do so? If they stop, we will stop. We will begin negotiations and discuss things like gentlemen and cultured people. We would like to do so. This is what we wanted from the very beginning; we still want it now.

Nakayama Welcomes Moscow's Gulf Peace Initiative

OW1902023891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Tuesday Japan welcomes the latest Soviet initiative to bring about a diplomatic settlement to the Persian Gulf war.

"Although we don't know about the detailed contents, the Soviet effort to mediate for peace should be welcome," he told reporters after a regular cabinet session.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev unveiled the peace proposal in a meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Moscow on Monday.

Kaifu To Send Envoy to Middle East 'Soon'

OW1902120891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1159 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will send a senior Foreign Ministry official to the Middle East soon to discuss peace and postwar reconstruction in the Persian Gulf region, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Watanabe, who will be Kaifu's envoy, will not go to Iraq, however, the spokesman said. He would not disclose Watanabe's destinations, saying his schedule is still being worked out with the countries involved. The spokesman, Taizo Watanabe, said details will be made public next week.

Meanwhile, Japan's other deputy foreign minister, Hisashi Owada, will stop in Iran, Israel and a number of European countries for talks on the Gulf situation on his way home from Moscow, Foreign Ministry sources said. Owada, who was in Moscow for talks on a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty, met Tuesday with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

Both deputy foreign ministers plan to sound out foreign leaders on what kind of role they would like to see Japan play in the postwar Middle East, the ministry sources said.

In a separate news conference, Spokesman Watanabe said Japan is studying what sort of assistance it can provide after the Gulf war ends.

Japan can contribute in the fields of economic reconstruction, aid to raise living standards in the region and arms reduction in the area, Spokesman Watanabe said. He welcomed the idea of convening a postwar international peace conference and said the first priority would be to ensure security in the region, followed by reconstruction.

Kaifu: Aid for Rebuilding in Event of Cease-Fire

OW1702112191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] Atami, Shizuoka Pref. Feb. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Sunday Japan's 9 billion dollar additional aid for the U.S.-led allied forces fighting Iraq will be used for postwar reconstruction if there is a cease-fire soon.

Kaifu, at a seminar of ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members at a hot spa resort southwest of Tokyo, said Japan will not ask for the return of any part of the money if an early cease-fire arises. He said any possible unused portion of the money for supporting the allies' military actions to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation would also be used to clean up an oil spill in the Persian Gulf.

On the calculation base of the 9 billion dollars, Kaifu only explained it was judged in terms of Japan's economic might.

The issue was among topics debated by opposition parties in the current Diet session in connection with how to raise the money and reports that the United States demanded the sum and considers it Japan's share for only a few months.

Turning to the government plan to send military aircraft to the Middle East to shuttle Gulf war refugees under a government ordinance, which is also opposed by most of the opposition parties, Kaifu said he would "repeatedly and desperately" ask for their approval of the move at the Diet session.

Opposition parties argue the scheme to use Self-Defense Force transport aircraft between Egypt, Jordan, or Syria is against the war-renouncing Constitution banning the use of military means to solve international conflicts. They also charge Kaifu's cabinet is forcing the plan by issuing a government ordinance bypassing the authority of the Diet legislature over a key policy change.

Tokyo Concedes to Opposition on Raising Gulf Aid

OW1602033591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1656 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 15 KYODO—The government Friday conceded to opposition parties and decided to raise 9 billion dollars for U.S.-led multinational forces fighting Iraq by trimming budget spending and increasing corporate and oil-related taxes.

The announcement came at the same time as news reached Tokyo that Iraq indicated willingness to withdraw from Kuwait, but Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said the money would go to the Gulf region even if peace is restored. The government plan approved two weeks ago called for raising the entire 9 billion dollars through increases in corporate, petroleum, and cigarette taxes.

In meetings with opposition leaders Kaifu explained that he has made the changes in response to views voiced by other parties, and that he hopes the legislation would be speedily passed into law.

The changes won the approval of the No. 2 opposition party, Komeito, which holds the swing vote in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors. The Democratic Socialist Party also gave the scheme a greenlight. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party holds a majority in the House of Representatives.

According to the revised proposal, the government will trim expenditures by 300 billion yen in fiscal 1991, ending in March 1992, and also earmark 200 billion yen in nontax revenue and other forms from the fiscal 1990 supplementary budget for the Gulf assistance. The new plan calls for a 100 billion yen reduction in fiscal 1991 defense outlays. The 70,347 billion yen budget for fiscal 1991, presented to the Diet in January, included 4,387 billion yen for defense. The revised scheme also reduces the size of the tax increases proposed earlier for petroleum and corporate taxes.

The petroleum tax will increase by 1.02 yen a liter, instead of the 2.04 yen planned earlier. The surcharge on corporate taxes will be raised by 2.5 percent, instead of 3.2 percent. The government plans to issue short-term national bonds in order to make the 9 billion dollar contribution at an early date. With the needed opposition cooperation assured, observers said they expect the bills to be passed by the Diet in early March.

The leading Social Democratic Party (formerly the Japan Socialist Party), the Japanese Communist Party, and the United Social Democratic Party remain opposed to funding, which they say violates Japan's war-renouncing constitution.

Cabinet Approves Gulf War Contribution Budget

OW1902120891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The government Tuesday approved budgetary measures to pave the way for Japan to contribute 9 billion dollars to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf within the current fiscal 1990 ending on March 31.

The measures, approved at an extraordinary cabinet session, consist of a second supplementary budget for fiscal 1990 and a partial revision of the fiscal 1991 budget, which already has been submitted to the diet for approval. The measures are designed to raise 1.17 trillion yen or 9 billion dollars, the amount pledged by the government as Japan's additional financial contribution for the Gulf war.

The supplementary budget allows the government to issue bonds worth 968.9 billion yen in the current fiscal year. The remainder of the contribution will be generated by slashing appropriations for government agencies and tax increases in fiscal 1991. The new bond issue will raise the government's dependence on borrowings to the public to 10.5 percent from the present 9.3 percent.

Government officials said the proposed tax increase will bring in 668 billion yen while budget cuts will total 502 billion yen. The Defense Agency will receive the largest cut, amounting to 4.8 billion yen in fiscal 1990, while 1.5 billion yen each will be drawn from three ministries—international trade and industry, health and welfare, and agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the officials said. The revised budget for fiscal 1991 cuts appropriations already allotted to government offices, the officials said. They said the defense budget will be cut by 100.2 billion yen over a four-year period—1 billion yen in fiscal 1991 and 99.2 billion yen in the following three years, the officials said.

The government will raise 200.7 billion yen by reducing the reserve fund and funds for construction of housing for public workers. The fund will be used to buy back the bonds to be issued in the current year. The government plans to introduce a tax increase bill and a revised 1991 budget to the Diet Friday, the officials said.

Saudi Envoy on Japan's Role in Mideast After War

OW1802075891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0741 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Japan 'Abd al-Majid Shobokshi said Monday the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is something for the Iraqi people to decide, not an outside power.

"The enemy (of the Iraqi people) is their government, which sacrificed the people's life and wealth for the glory of one man," the ambassador told a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

Asked if he would be satisfied if Iraq withdrew from Kuwait, but Saddam Husayn remained in power, Shobokshi said Husayn's fate lies in the hands of his people. "It's up to the Iraqi people to decide what they want with their own leader who brought them all the misery and the agony, and led them from one war to another war," he said.

Shobokshi acknowledged that a well-armed Husayn would still pose a threat to the region, and said that countries in the region are studying how best to maintain regional security after the Persian Gulf war is over. Shobokshi welcomed the Soviet attempt to mediate with Iraq, but dismissed Iraq's proposal last week for a conditional withdrawal from Kuwait. He said the Iraqi proposal announced last Friday was an attempt to win time and to break down the international solidarity backing the U.S.-led multinational forces.

Shobokshi said the new conditions demonstrate that Iraq is not sincere about observing United Nations Security

Council resolutions demanding its unconditional withdrawal. In the proposal, Iraq said it would withdraw from Kuwait, but linked the move to an overall peace settlement in the Middle East.

Shobokshi encouraged Japan to play a more positive role in the Middle East after the war, both in funding economic reconstruction, and in seeking a solution to the issue of self-determination for the Palestinian people. He said he had no objection to Japan's offer to reconstruct Iraq.

PRC 'Unofficially' Requests $6 Billion Loan

OW1902074191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—China has unofficially requested Japan to provide 6 billion dollars worth of untied loans for its energy development projects, after negotiations had been suspended since the 1989 military crackdown at Tiananmen Square, sources in bilateral economic relations said Tuesday.

The 6 billion dollar loans are separate ones from Japan's loan package of 810 billion yen for the 1990-95 period. The 6 billion dollar was originally requested in 1989 to the Export-Import Bank of Japan, which had offered a total of about 1 trillion yen in two five-year untied loans in 1979 and 1984. But the negotiations were suspended after the Tiananmen Square crackdown, when international economic sanctions were applied against China.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in January promised to consider resuming the negotiations when he visited China at a request by the Chinese side, according to the sources.

The Japanese Government, receiving the Chinese informal request recently, is apparently moving to offer the 6 billion dollars in loans after the next summit meeting by the leaders of seven major industrial nations and the European countries slated in July in London, the sources added. The government has also started preparatory research on the projects the Chinese side has asked financial assistance for, they said. The projects are to develop five different oil fields and coal mines.

If the 6 billion dollars in loans is approved, it will signal that Japan has lifted all sanctions against China after the Tiananmen Square military suppression of the pro-democracy movement.

ROK Asks Japan To Contribute to Unification

OW1902115091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—South Korean ruling party leader Kim Chong-pil called on Japan on Tuesday to ensure that its normalization talks with North Korea contribute to unification of the divided Korean peninsula.

In a lecture at a Tokyo hotel, Kim, co-chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), also said that his country wants Japan to stay in close contact with Seoul in the talks.

Japan and North Korea held their first round of negotiations on normalizing diplomatic ties in Pyongyang in late January. They remain far apart on key issues, but plan a second round of talks in Tokyo for March 11.

Kim, a one time prime minister under the assassinated President Pak Chong-hui, urged Japan to ensure that any economic assistance it offers to North Korea is not used to further build up that country's military. Kim said he also hopes that Tokyo will make efforts in the talks to allay suspicion concerning nuclear facilities in North Korea.

North Korea ratified the 1970 treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in 1985, but has not allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities to ensure they are being used for peaceful purposes only. In the first round of normalization talks, Chief Japanese Negotiator Noboru Nakahira urged his North Korean counterpart, Chon In-chol, to accept international inspection of the nuclear facilities. Chon, however, rejected the Japanese demand and asked Japan to help arrange direct talks with the United States. North Korea has insisted that the U.S. should first withdraw the nuclear weapons Pyongyang says it has on American bases in South Korea.

Another sticking point in the talks is Pyongyang's demand that Japan pay compensation, not only for its colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910-45, but also for postwar "damages" as a result of animosity between the two countries. Kim said South Korea should not meddle in the compensation issue, adding he hopes the Japanese Government will settle the problem with its own "sensible judgment."

When Japan normalized relations with South Korea in 1965, it extended economic assistance by way of compensating for the colonial period, but South Korea did not request compensation for the postwar years.

Kim, who came to Tokyo on Sunday at the invitation of a private institute on international affairs headed by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, will stay in Japan through Friday.

While in Tokyo, Kim is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Kaifu To Promote Unification

OW1902124491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told a South Korean ruling party leader on Tuesday that Tokyo will ensure that its normalization talks with Pyongyang contribute to reunification of the

Korean peninsula, Japanese officials said. Kaifu gave the assurance during a meeting with Kim Chong-pil, co-chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party, who asked Kaifu to conduct the talks in such a way as to promote inter-Korean dialogue.

Kim, a former prime minister, noted that South Korea is closely watching the development of the talks between Japan and North Korea, the officials said.

Kaifu told Kim that Japan, respecting its friendly relations with Seoul, will maintain close contact with Seoul on the talks, and keep in mind the situation on the Korean peninsula as a whole.

Japan and North Korea are set to begin their second round of government-to-government negotiations March 11 in Tokyo. The first round of the talks, aimed at establishing diplomatic ties, was held in Pyongyang in late January.

A mission from North Korea's ruling Korean Workers Party is due to arrive in Tokyo on Wednesday at the invitation of Kaifu's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the country's largest opposition Social Democratic Party, formerly the Japan Socialist Party.

Japan, which colonized all of Korea between 1910 and 1945, established ties with South Korea in 1965 but has no formal relations with North Korea.

DPRK Advance Team Arrives To Prepare Talks

OW1602143491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO—An advance team of North Koreans arrived Saturday to prepare for a Tokyo visit by a delegation of the (North) Korean Workers Party (KWP) later this month.

The four-member team was headed by Kim Yang-kon, deputy chief of the KWP's International Division and right-hand man of party secretary Kim Yong-sun, who is billed as one of the closest aides to President Kim Il-song.

The team members will coordinate detailed schedules for a 36-member KWP delegation invited to visit Japan on February 20-27 by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDP), the top opposition party formerly named the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), for talks with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and leaders of the ruling and opposition parties. The North Korean delegation's Tokyo visit is in exchange for a Pyongyang visit last fall by a joint LDP-SDP mission.

A joint statement issued then by the Japanese and North Korean parties marked a first step toward formal talks on establishing bilateral relations.

North Korea

Statement Canceling 25 Feb Talks With South

SK1802022791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Statement issued by the North side's delegation to the North- South high-level talks on 18 February—read by announcer]

[Text] Our sincere efforts to open a new phase for peace and reunification through dialogue and negotiations are now faced with a grave challenge by the South Korean authorities.

With war in the Gulf, under the pretext of a fictitious southward invasion from the North, the South Korean authorities declared a wartime state of emergency throughout South Korea. In addition, they announced the plan for the aggressive Team Spirit joint military exercise. They are making a racket to bring about a new war.

The U.S. forces occupying South Korea and the Korean forces are already in an emergency mobilization situation simulating a northward invasion. The enormous U.S. forces, their new equipment of various types, and weapons of mass destruction are being introduced into South Korea on a large scale from the U.S. mainland and its overseas bases in the Pacific.

Coinciding with the reek of powder from a nuclear war, the policy of suppressing the forces for reunification and democracy is strengthened in South Korea more than ever before. The commotions of checks and searches by armed police are conducted night and day. The people are arrested and imprisoned everywhere, and they are sacrificed with bayonets.

Because of reckless war moves and suppression, and commotions which are wantonly committed in South Korea, a horror-ridden atmosphere unprecedentedly prevails there. Thus, North-South relations are once again in a state of acute confrontation prior to dialogue. A very acute situation, in which war may break out at any time, prevails once again on the Korean peninsula.

Such a grave situation, which causes deep apprehension among the people of the world, cools the aspiration for reunification which flares up in our national hearts thanks to various festivals—such as the pan-national meeting, the North-South high-level talks, the North-South soccer games for reunification, and the concert for reunification. Furthermore, this grave situation brings an unbearable result, which turns the trend from peace and reunification back to confrontation and war.

Expressing great regret over the fact that the South Korean authorities created such a situation in concert with the United States, the North side's delegation to the North-South high- level talks resolutely denounces the

intolerable anti-dialogue, antipeace, and anti-reunification commotions in the name of all the people.

Today, the South Korean authorities, as one dialogue partner, are going down the road toward betraying us, the other dialogue partner. In addition, as a member of the nation, they are going down the road toward betraying the entire nation.

As is well known, our national supreme task is peace for the country and peaceful reunification. To settle this task, we have recognized the South Korean authorities as a dialogue partner, have sat face to face with them, have put forward various reasonable and realistic proposals for peace, and have steadily made efforts with all sincerity and tolerance to bring good results before the nation.

Since the first round of the North-South high-level talks which were held in September 1990, on three occasions we have put forward the question of adopting a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South, to remove the political and military confrontation and create a favorable condition for peace and peaceful reunification. In addition, we have repeatedly urged that as an urgent question, the South Korean side take measures to stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

We even made the flexible proposal that if the South Korean side cannot completely suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise, that it suspend it at least for two to three years while the North-South high-level talks are being held. When the South Korean authorities held a so-called ROK-U.S. annual security consultative meeting, with the United States scheming to continue the Team Spirit joint military exercise while they carried on talks with us, we seriously urged the South Korean side, with patience and cherishing dialogue, not to engage in acts endangering dialogue and peace.

Early this new year, proclaiming a new epochal plan for peace and reunification, we urged the South Korean authorities once again to accept our proposal for a nonaggression declaration and to suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Even after 25 January when the South Korean authorities announced the plan of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, ignoring all our persuasive arguments and advice, we did not halt our efforts for peace but strongly demanded that they stop the war commotions which lead dialogue to frustration and threaten peace. We did this through a Foreign Ministry statement and the statement of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

In fact, we made considerable efforts at the site of the talks for detente and peace, and away from it, and we have taken every step we can. However, the South Korean authorities did not accept any of our peace proposals and broadmindedness, but opposed everything. They turned down even the nonaggression declaration which we proposed to adopt, on the ground that it is nothing but a blank sheet of paper. Rather, by conducting the aggressive Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, they heightened tensions and are leading the situation further to the dangerous brink of war.

Is it for peace in the country that they issued a super-emergency alert order and are conducting a large-scale joint military exercise in response to our proposal to live peacefully without encroaching upon the other side through a nonaggression declaration? Is it for dialogue that your side conducts the Team Spirit joint military exercise, challenging our proposal for stopping the military exercise in order to to cherish dialogue and have it progress? The antinational act of the South Korean authorities is completely an act that destroys peace and frustrates dialogue.

The South Korean authorities cannot justify the dialogue- negating, reunification-negating Team Spirit joint military exercise with whatever excuse and sophistry they may employ. While announcing the plan for the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, they made clumsy excuses, such as the reduction in scale and shortening of duration, thereby admitting themselves the criminal nature of this military exercise. They have not reported the military exercise even once during this nearly 1 month period since they began it, thereby keeping it secret. This is nothing less than their admitting the grave nature of this military exercise. If, as they claim, the Team Spirit joint military exercise does not offer any problem at all, they need not mention the reduction of its scale and shortening of its duration. Furthermore, they need not hesitate to report it or hide it.

In South Korea, people of all walks of life, including youths and students, reject the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, increasing their calls for suspending the fire game which threatens dialogue and peace and heightens tensions. This proves that no matter how hard the South Korean authorities may try to cover the criminal war rehearsal by wrapping it in a cloth of peace, they can never hide its dangerous nature.

Excuses and sophistry will reveal more clearly the criminals' crimes.

The purpose of the South Korean authorities, who force the Team Spirit joint military exercise, lies in driving the North- South dialogue into the crisis of a rupture and in gravely infringing upon peace.

Today, the South Korean persons in authority are faced with serious crises owing to political chaos and economic stagnation. Because of the sharp increase of the forces against fascism and division and for reunification and democracy, and because of daily worsening trouble within the class in power and the economic breakdown, the South Korean ruling quarters suffer extreme anxiety. Moreover, owing to the daily growing enthusiasm for reunification of all the people and owing to our positive stand to adopt a nonaggression declaration and to promote dialogue for reunification, the South Korean authorities are further driven into a corner.

The South Korean authorities, who are faced with insurmountable crises within and without, are trying to extricate themselves from such a crisis in their confrontation policy. And they ignored the hard-won dialogue between authorities, and hastily forced the Team Spirit joint military exercise together with the United States, while seeking reunification by prevailing over communism.

The South Korean authorities seek an outdated confrontation policy that goes against peace and reunification. This is anachronistic. In addition, their ambition to achieve reunification by prevailing over communism with foreign forces is a foolish delusion.

The South Korean ruling quarters have not discarded their bad habits of trying to do something that cannot be done and of eating something that cannot be eaten, while stealing a look at our republic in which all the people are armed with the chuche idea and united single-heartedly. This cannot but be a tragedy of the South Korean ruling quarters.

All facts clearly show that the South Korean persons in authority are destroyers of dialogue, disturbers of peace, and obstructors of reunification, because they bring dialogue to the edge of a rupture, put peace in danger, and place a new grave stumbling block in the way of reunification through their confrontation policy and war moves.

In the past, they monopolized dialogue and blocked the civilian contacts and dialogues at the point of the bayonet under the pretext of a single-channel dialogue. Today, they endanger even the North- South high-level talks through war moves. Thus, the South Korean persons in authority, in fact, are not qualified whatsoever to talk about dialogue. There is no cause for them to be a partner of dialogue for reunification. We have no intention of following and catching those who retreat from the road of dialogue and run away, despite our sincere advice and tolerance.

The fourth round of the North-South high-level talks, which are slated for 25 February, cannot be held as scheduled. The South Korean persons in authority should be held entirely responsible for this, because they avoid dialogue and raise the commotions of confrontation and war.

The South Korean authorities themselves, who are in charge of the North-South high-level talks, have personally prevented the talks from being held. Thus, their responsibility and crimes are graver.

The situation on the Korean peninsula is being driven to a phase of confrontation prior to dialogue. The North-South dialogue is driven to the danger of a rupture. The United States should be duly held responsible for this.

We will never look on with folded arms at the antinational crimes of the South Korean authorities who put our country's situation, which is moving toward detente and peace, into confrontation without dialogue and into the dangerous situation of war, by recklessly playing with fire at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists.

The South Korean authorities, who place in danger of a rupture the North-South high-level talks which have been held with the expectations and concerns of all the people, should without fail pay dearly for this before the nation.

18 February, 1991, Pyongyang.

South Blamed for Cancellation

SK180256Z91 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 18 Feb 91

["South Korean Authorities Are To Blame for Impossibility of Planned Inter-Korean High-Level Talks"—KCNA]

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (Kcna)—It is the South Korean authorities avoiding dialogue and kicking up a racket of confrontation and war that are wholly to blame for the impossibility of the fourth inter-Korean high-level talks slated for February 25, stresses the North side delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks in a statement issued today.

The statement says:

We have no idea of clinging to the sleeves of those who escape from the road of dialogue despite our sincere advice and magnanimity. Today the South Korean authorities are suffering a serious crisis caused by political confusion and economic depression.

In an attempt to find a way out in the policy of confrontation, they hastily started the "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers with the United States, turning their back on the hard-won dialogue between the authorities and dreaming of "unification by prevailing over communism."

We cannot but ask how their challenging our demand that the "Team Spirit" be stopped for dialogue and its progress by defiantly staging the military exercises can be regarded as intended for dialogue. With no subterfuge and sophistry can they justify the anti-dialogue, anti-peace "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

The South Korean authorities brought the dialogue to the brink of failure and endangered peace with the provocative confrontation policy and war moves. They are, in fact, not entitled to talk about dialogue or become a partner to the reunification dialogue. The blame is all the more serious and the crime is all the more grave because the South Korean authorities, a partner to the high-level talks, made the talks impossible.

The United States is also to blame for the situation on the Korean Peninsula driven back to the pre-dialogue phase of confrontation and for the inter-Korean dialogue brought to the brink of rupture.

We will never tolerate the anti-national crimes of the South Korean authorities who have plunged with a reckless play with fire the situation in our country advancing toward detente and peace into a dangerous state of confrontation devoid of dialogue and war at the instigation of the U.S.

Further on 'Collapse' of N-S Talks

SK1902062191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0532 GMT 19 Feb 91

["They Cannot Evade Blame for Bringing Dialogue to a Head"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—The responsibility for bringing North-South dialogue to the brink of collapse rests entirely with the South Korean authorities who have evaded dialogue and kicked up a row of confrontation and war, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst says:

The reckless war provocation moves and barbarous fascist bayonet-wielding of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have turned South Korea into a unheard-of land of terror, brought the North-South relations back to the pre-dialogue state of acute confrontation and created a strained situation in which a war may break out any moment in our country.

Such grave situation makes it impossible to hold the fourth North-South high-level talks slated for February 25 as scheduled.

We, on behalf of the whole nation, bitterly denounce the South Korean ruling group for driving the situation of the country, which had been heading for detente and peace, into a dangerous state of confrontation and war with a reckless war gamble at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists.

Recalling the repetition of the grave situation in which North- South dialogue has been suspended or broken up overnight due to the annual war exercises, the news analyst says:

The South Korean authorities, well aware of such grave consequences, have staged the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres together with the U.S. imperialists. This cannot but be construed otherwise than a deliberate act apparently disliking detente, rejecting dialogue and obstructing reunification.

With no amount of sophism can the No Tae-uo ruling group cover up the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises or veil its ugly color as the wrecker of dialogue, harasser of peace and obstructor of reunification.

We have valued North-South dialogue and will do the same in the future. We, however, will not detain by the sleeve the betrayers and traitors to the nation who are turning away from dialogue, ignoring our advice and magnanimity of good faith.

We will never tolerate the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets who have cast a gloom over the prospect of North-South high-level talks that started amid the whole nation's expectation and concern.

Kim Hyong-chin Speaks at N-S Sports Talks

SK1602015891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0700 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Text] The fourth round of North-South sports talks to discuss and settle the issue of the formation of a single team and the participation of the North and the South as a single team in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and other major international games was held in the South side area of Panmunjom this morning.

Participating in the talks were five delegates led by Kim Hyong-chin, vice chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee from our side, and five delegates from the South side. Kim Hyong-chin, chief delegate of our side, spoke at the talks.

[Begin Kim Hyong-chin recording] Delegates of the South side: We now meet for the fourth time since we first had the North-South sports talks on 19 November. Frankly, when we began the talks we were certain that one or two rounds of talks would enable us to reach an agreement since we began the talks declaring that the two sides would participate in future major international games as a single team.

All our fellow countrymen and sports people in the North and the South expected that the talks would conclude discussions within a short period of time and declare the birth of a single team, because the talks were held after the historic reunification soccer games splendidly held in Pyongyang and Seoul. However, even today when the 41st World Table Tennis Championships, the first international games to be participated in as a single team, are only 70 days away, we are meeting with the issues on the agenda still unresolved, disappointing our fellow countrymen watching the progress of the talks.

Seeing the prevailing situation at present, there is a large obstacle in the formation and participation of a single team in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships. As the delegates of your side have also reiterated, creating the single team is a splendid festive event realizing reunification in the sports field and a historic event which all our fellow countrymen should celebrate as a splendid reunification festival.

It is not justified for any reason whatsoever to bring the dark clouds of confrontation and war at a time when this national festive event is about to develop. Looking at the sports history of the world, we note that a fiercely fought battle was suspended to ensure the success of an ancient

Olympiad. We have never found proof that a large-scale military exercise was conducted against fellow countrymen with a festive event imminent, in which the two sides of a divided nation are producing a single team and are about to participate in world championships for the first time. Therefore, the dangerous confrontation conducted in South Korea at present fall just short of barring the progress of our sports talks.

That is why during the third round of talks we urged your side to make due efforts to suspend the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise. We did this not because we wanted to discuss politics or engage in unnecessary argument. We took up this issue because we truly treasured our talks and because we ardently desired to make sure that the hard-won opportunity for the formation and participation of the single team brings success.

However, since the third round of talks, nothing has changed. Rather, the situation became aggravated in a direction contrary to the purpose of the formation and participation of the single team. We are gravely concerned about this, and stress that your side should make proper efforts even now to prevent the formation and participation of the single team from failing halfway through.

As for the progress of the discussions on how to form and participate in the single team, we cannot say that the progress is smooth. Only 10 days are left until the date for the preliminary application for participation in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships in which we intend to participate as a single team. If things were progressing smoothly, the working committee for the table tennis single team should have been formed and it should be in the final stages of specific discussions of problems by now, for the formation and participation of the single team. However, we have not been able to enter into discussions on ways to form and operate the working committee for the table tennis single team, and what is more, we have not been able to conclude the discussions on the written agreement on the formation and participation of the single team, leaving a series of problems unresolved.

The delegates of the two sides cannot afford to spend time arguing anymore, but should completely settle the pending problems at today's talks. If we should fail to settle the pending problems at today's talks, the fate of the talks and the formation and participation of the single team will be at stake, and the delegates of the two sides will be committing a crime that cannot be pardoned by all the fellow countrymen and sports people.

We think that at today's talk the delegates of the two sides should look at where we are, and declare the birth of the single teams in actions, instead of in words, by subordinating everything to successfully forming and sending the single teams at today's talks.

What counts most in this regard is for the delegates of the two sides to understand the viewpoints of the other side after abandoning confrontational ideas and to take into consideration the prevailing situation, both subjective and objective, not just in terms of working issues related to sports, when dealing with the pending issues.

When the two sides take such a stand, today's talks for the settlement of the pending issues will progress satisfactorily and we will be able to declare before the world the birth of single teams, for the first time in history.

Now, I am going to present our epoch-making proposals aimed at concluding the talks today. First, in what order should the question of forming the single teams to compete in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and the first World Junior Soccer Championships be discussed? As clearly stated in the joint agreement reached by the two sides, the formation of the single team to compete in the 41st World Table Tennis Championship should be discussed and settled first.

Considering timing, too, the table tennis championships will be held nearly 2 months earlier than the junior soccer championships. Because of this, it is quite natural for us to discuss the formation of a single team to compete in the table tennis championships first. Also, if the two questions are discussed simultaneously, it is apparent that complications will inevitably arise.

For this reason, your side's previous proposal that the question of forming the single teams for the two sets of championships be discussed simultaneously, suggesting that conditions be set depending on the outcome of the discussion of the two single teams, cannot be deemed appropriate. But your side has accepted our proposal and we think that is good.

Second, the unresolved question of selecting the players and their training, and of appointing the heads of the teams. The selection of the players is the question that matters most. With regard to the selection of the players, we consider it reasonable and practical if the players of the single teams are selected through discussion, given the fact that the North and South are more or less equal in ability both in table tennis and soccer and that their skills and special talents are already known to each other in the course of competing in many international contests.

However, your side, while agreeing on selecting the players of the single table tennis team through discussion, insisted at the previous round of talks on selecting the players of the soccer team through discussion based on games set up to select players.

We find it fortunate that your side has agreed to our side's proposal for selecting the players of both the single table tennis and soccer teams through discussion after withdrawing its earlier insistence on selecting them based on player-selection games.

In the case of soccer teams, we consider player-selection games, not to mention elimination games, to be virtually unnecessary unless the players of the single teams are selected mostly from the winning teams. However, in

this question, too, our side has decided to make a drastic concession and agree to your side's proposal that the players of the single teams be selected through discussion at the working committee for the single soccer teams after subjecting the players of the two sides to the player-selection games between two teams composed of mixed players from the North and South.

To say it more properly, our side's stand on selecting the players is that the players of the single teams to compete in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships are to be selected through discussion of the working committee formed for the single table tennis teams and the players of the single teams to compete in the Sixth World Junior Soccer Championships are to be selected through the discussion and the decision of the working committee formed for the single table tennis teams based on the player-selection games to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul.

The next question concerns the date of the player-selection games for the single soccer teams. According to our careful calculation, your side's idea about holding the games toward the end of March is impossible. First of all, soccer fields in both our side and yours are not ready for player-selection games toward the end of March. We consider it impossible to hold the player-selection games, the first ever to be held for the formation of a single team between the North and South, on dirt fields with no grass.

Another thing that we have to take into consideration with regard to setting the date for the player-selection games is the atmosphere expected to prevail by the end of March. We do not want to talk about it anymore.

With such facts taken into consideration, we suggest that the player-selection games for the single soccer team be held not at the end of March, but either at the end of April or early May, a month later. We think that your side will not have a very different opinion on this.

The next question concerns the training of the players. The difference in opinions of the two sides on this matter is that while our side insists on training the single table tennis teams somewhere other than the North or the South for a change of scenery, your side insists on doing it in the North and the South alternately.

Our side's suggestion that the training of the single teams be conducted somewhere else is based on ample practical possibility. To tell the truth, the players of the single North-South table tennis team have no time to train in the North and South alternately.

Even if our talks are concluded today, the two sides will have to sign an agreement after going through the procedure of wording the draft agreement either at working contacts or at the full-dress talks. Even if the working committee for the single table tennis teams can be formed, along with the appointment of its members, within 15 days from the day the agreement was signed, this organization can never settle all the issues in one or two days given the workload it is faced with.

In view of this, the players of the single table tennis teams will have practically no time to train in the North and South alternately. Considering this, we suggest that the general training of the players of the single table tennis teams be conducted somewhere else other than the North or the South for a change of scenery. We think that your side will understand this.

We think that the players of the single junior soccer team will have no particular problem in having one round of training in the North and South alternately provided the player-selecting games are held either by the end of March or in early April.

The next question concerns the head of the teams. In essence, our consistent stand is that the teams to be formed with the players from the North and the South combined should be jointly headed by the two sides. Your side's persons in authority and delegates to the talks agreed to this idea during the soccer games for reunification.

Your side argues that when the single teams are jointly headed by the two sides, it is the same as having two heads on a single body. Such an argument seems to stem from an improper understanding of the joint head of the single teams.

The fact that joint leadership of the single teams will represent the single teams in the international games and handle problems arising in foreign relations during games makes it inevitable to have the single teams headed jointly by the two sides, not by any one side.

Frankly speaking, it is true that the North and South have things in common as well as differences when it comes to their stands on events in the international sports circles. Under such circumstances, if the heads of the single teams handle various issues arising in holding sporting events in their own style without heeding the emotions of the players and the stands of the two sides, what will happen? When this happens, it is apparent that it will lead to complicated consequences. However, if the single teams are lead jointly, they can handle things by harmoniously discussing them and reaching agreement on them. If this happens, the players will be pleased and no problem will arise.

So, we think it quite natural that the single teams are headed jointly by the North and South. If, however, the two sides find themselves in conflict because of their differing stands on the question of who will head the single teams, we will never be able to see the birth of single teams. Our side is willing to generously accept your side's proposals as a special case.

Our side has no objection to your side's idea that the single table tennis team be headed by our side and the single junior soccer team be headed by your side. As in the above statement, I explained our side's stand on such

issues as the selection of players for the single teams, their training, and leadership of the teams.

Simply put, driven by the single desire to form single teams to compete in international sporting events at the earliest possible date, our side has generously agreed to your side's proposals, although they have some problems.

I am convinced that if your side genuinely wants to make the nation happy and is willing to hasten reunification by agreeing to form single teams, the question of training the players of the single table tennis teams elsewhere other than the North and the South for a change of scenery can be easily settled and the single teams can be formed today.

The third question concerns the formation and running of the working committees for the single teams to compete in the 41st world table tennis championships and the sixth world junior soccer championships.

First of all, according to our study of your side's agreement on the formation and running of the working committee for the single table tennis teams, we find it has no differences from our side's proposals if unnecessary ingredients are either deleted or corrected. So, we think that the two sides can easily agree on the formation and running of the working committee for the single table tennis teams.

Our side's study of the agreement on the formation and running of the working committee for the single junior soccer teams reveals that it has no great problems if the unnecessary factors are deleted or revised as in the case of the agreement on the formation and running of the working committee for the single table tennis teams.

So, we have decided to accept your side's draft agreement on the formation and running of the working committee for the single soccer teams on the assumption that part of your side's proposal is either deleted or revised in your proposal.

The fourth question concerns the content of letters to the international institutions informing them of the formation of the single teams between our two sides to compete in the two sets of championships. From the first round of talks, our side presented the draft letter to the international institutions informing them of our intention to form single teams between the North and the South to compete in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships, the Sixth World Junior Soccer Championships, as well as the regional tournament of soccer teams for the 25th Olympic Games, and have hoped that it would be agreed upon.

It was fortunate that your side responded to our side's proposal and came up with a draft agreement to the international institutions at the third round of talks. Since your side stated in your draft letter that it agrees in principle on participating in the two sets of championships with single teams and that discussion will continue between the associations of the two sides, it is difficult to determine whether your side means to say that the two sides will participate in the two sets of championships with single teams without fail or not. If this is the case, our two sides will make it difficult for the international institutions to determine whether our two sides will participate in the two sets of championships with single teams or not and cause confusion for them in taking appropriate steps and in extending appropriate cooperation.

Also, the draft letter worked out by your side has failed to mention the name of the single teams, flag, and songs—the most important things when it comes to formation of the single teams to compete in the two sets of championships. With things taken into consideration, our side considers that if our proposals are integrated, this question will also have no problems.

As demonstrated in the above statement, I have presented our side's stand and viewpoints on the issues that must be settled at this round of talks today. Driven by a desire to bring the single teams into being at any cost at the earliest possible date, our side hopes that our two sides would be able to reach a full agreement at today's talks based on the counterproposals worked out on the basis of generously accepting your side's proposals. [end recording]

At the talks, the senior member of the South side's delegation spoke. In his speech, the senior member, while stating that he was presenting a compromise proposal, repeated what he has asserted in the past, that the general training of the table tennis teams be conducted in Seoul, and then took on an ambivalent stand that he did not mean to say that his side would like to head the table tennis team. In response, the head of our side's delegation made it clear that suggesting the table tennis teams train in Seoul is discarding realities and turned it down.

The participants in the talks discussed issues related to the full-dress talks. Thanks to our side's generous concessions, magnanimity, and persuasion, the South side has agreed to our side's proposal that the training of the table tennis teams be conducted elsewhere other than the North and the South for a change of scenery. It also has agreed to our proposal that the table tennis teams be headed by our side and the soccer team be headed by the South side.

Following this, the two sides of the North and South discussed agreements on forming the single North-South teams to compete in the 41st World Table Tennis Championship and on forming the single North-South teams to compete in the Sixth World Junior Soccer Championships. The two sides have also reached an agreement on these issues.

Next, the two sides discussed an agreement on the letter to be sent to the International Table Tennis Federation and the International and Asian Regional Soccer Federation, and reached an agreement in principle.

Following this, the two sides began discussing the draft agreement on forming and running the working committees for the single teams to compete in the 41st World Table Tennis Championship and agreement on forming and running the working committee for the single teams to compete in the Sixth World Junior Soccer Championship. They have reached an agreement on this in principle, too.

The head of our side's delegation suggested that since the two sides have reached agreement on all issues discussed, the heads of the two sides's delegation sign the agreements after completing the wording right away. However, the South side which had earlier agreed to this idea changed its attitude abruptly and suggested that the two sides work out wordings of the draft by holding working contacts on 22 February and then insisted on signing the agreement at the fifth round of full-dress talks on 25 February.

In this connection, our side, pressed the South side to answer as to what is wrong with the idea of completing the wording at the earliest possible date and signing the agreement before the end of today, and then rebutted the South side's attitude, arguing that it reminds them of the day the South side ruptured the full agreement reached between the North and the South on participation of the North and the South in the 11th Asian Games with single teams with the so-called additional rules.

Unable to be stubborn any longer on the face of our side's just and logical argument, the South side agreed on having the heads of the two sides' delegation sign the agreement after wording the draft agreement in working contacts.

North Names Working Committees

SK1802112591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—The DPRK Olympic Committee made public today the following lists of our side's members of the Working Committee of the North-South unified table tennis team to the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and the working committee of the North-South unified soccer team to the 6th World Youth Soccer Championships.

Table Tennis Working Committee

Cochairman: Chang Ung, secretary of the DPRK Olympic Committee
Member: Kim Sang-gu, member of the DPRK Olympic Committee
Member: Kim Hui-chon, secretary of the DPRK Table Tennis Association
Member: Kang Yong-sam, member of the DPRK Table Tennis Association
Member: Pak Si-nam, member of the DPRK Table Tennis Association

Football Working Committee

Cochairman: Kim Se-chin, member of the DPRK Olympic Committee
Member: Kim Chong-sik, member of the DPRK Olympic Committee
Member: Yi Myong-song, vice-chairman of the DPRK Football Association
Member: Kim Kwang-ho, permanent member of the DPRK Football Association
Member: Yun Yun-hung, member of the DPRK Football Association

USSR's Rogachev Remarks on Reunification Proposal

SK1802052291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] According to a report in the 15 February edition of Soviet paper, TRUD, Soviet Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev answered questions from a reporter on the prospect for relations between North and South Korea. In noting that Korea, which was a unified state, has been divided for nearly 50 years, he said that as the Korean people justly describe, this is a wound which has not healed and which still remains in their hearts.

He pointed out that the aspirations of the Korean people in the North and the South to reunify are very high, and these aspirations are growing each day.

In touching on dialogue between North and South Korea, he said he considers that the large-scale Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise will not create circumstances favorable for North-South Korean contacts.

He continued: The same people cannot remain divided into two forever. We are convinced that Korea will become a reunified state some day. We think that the reunification of the Korean people should be achieved in a peaceful and democratic manner in compliance with the will of all the Korean people. In particular, we like to stress that the reunification should be realized without interference by any foreign nation. We believe that the most important contribution for this will be the realization of the proposals that Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and DPRK president, made on 1 January this year. He proposed to build trust by removing the confrontation on the Korean peninsula, particularly with his proposals for establishing a confederal state and for adopting a North-South nonaggression declaration, and also for his disarmament proposal made on 31 May last year.

Talks With Japan Scheduled for 11 Mar in Tokyo

SK1602030291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] The second round of the full-dress government-to-government talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations is scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 11 March 1991.

Attending the talk from our side will be a DPRK Government delegation headed by Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-choi and from the Japanese side a Japanese Government delegation headed by (Noboru Nakahira), vice foreign minister-level former ambassador. [sentence as heard]

NODONG SINMUN on U.S. 'High-Handed Aggression'

SK1902111491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 19 Feb 91

["High-Handed U.S. Aggression Under Preposterous Pretexts"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—The aggressive nature of U.S. imperialism can never change. It is important, therefore, for the world people to be on alert against the high-handed behaviour of the U.S. imperialists who invade sovereign states and create the danger of war more arrogantly after the balance of forces collapsed on international relations.

This is stressed in a signed article of NODONG SINMUN today.

The article says:

The U.S. imperialists' doctrine of aggression based on the jungle law finds expression in the fact that they attack small nations under the brigandish pretext of "protection of Americans and the U.S. interests" and commit aggression, claiming that regional security is linked with the security of the United States.

Their invasion of Grenada and Panama and their large-scale bombing on Libya in April 1986 are patent proofs of this.

Like a thief crying "stop thief," they are slandering the DPRK and trying to justify their troops' occupation of South Korea and their preparations for aggression and war on the Korean Peninsula with the fiction of "threat from the North."

Facts show that threat to regional peace and security really comes from the United States.

The U.S. imperialists' doctrine of aggression based on the jungle tale is a product of their desperate efforts to find a way out of the serious political and economic crisis.

The peace-loving people of the world will unite and frustrate the U.S. imperialists' moves of aggression and war under the banner of independence against imperialism and of peace against war.

KCNA Carries Pyongyang Press Review

For 16 Feb

SK1602060591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 16 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Blaise Compaore, chairman of the people's front and head of state and government of Burkina Faso, in reply to the latter's solidarity message supporting the proposal for national reunification in his New Year address.

The paper reports that messages of greetings and congratulations came to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign countries on his birthday.

The paper informs the readers that a Malagasy paper carried a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It conveys words of South Korean people deeply revering Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Under the headline "Great Thinker and Theoretician, Genius of Creation and Construction" the paper carries words of foreign public figures praising his feats.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls upon officials to give a fuller play to the spirit of devoted service for the people and MINJU CHOSON calls for adding lustre to our style socialism in hearty response to the party's leadership.

Papers inform the readers that a commissioning ceremony of the second sulphuric acid production process of the Pyongbuk Smeltery was held and thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was conveyed to the builders and helpers who performed feats in its construction.

The governor-general of Mauritius met the Korean foreign minister, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that talks between the Korean and Mauritian foreign ministers were held in Port Louis.

MINJU CHOSON in a political essay headlined "Great Banner" says that our party is the great banner which makes tens of millions of hearts pulsate with one breath and always leads our revolution along a road of victory.

The paper informs the readers that a special issue of the bulletin titled "Paragon of People's Leader" was published in Mali and an emergency meeting of members of the leading body of the International Liaison Committee for the reunification and peace of Korea was held in Paris.

Econews of papers include reports about innovation effected by builders of Tongil Street in Pyongyang in the

boosting construction and innovations by workers of the Yongsong General Machine Bureau in the production of ordered equipment intended for the fields which should be given priority in the national economy.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Ministry of People's Armed forces hosted a reception for the military attaches of different embassies here on the occasion of the February holiday.

"Singing competition on the February holiday" was held in the Congo, says the press.

Papers inform the readers that the second intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations will be held in Tokyo from March 11, 1991.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing the repressive offensive of the No Tae-u ruling group to totally stifle the labor movement.

Appearing in papers are reports about anti-U.S., anti-"government" demonstrations staged by students in Seoul and South Korean opposition parties' continued denunciation of the case of privileged distribution of housing lot in Suwo District, Seoul, a scandal committed by the No Tae-u ruling group.

NODONG SINMUN in a review of the South Korean situation says that the past half a month in South Korea was days of crimes which the No Tae-u ruling group committed, driving the whole of South Korea into an atmosphere of terror, while running riot in war rackets against the North and suppression of people.

Foreign media reported struggle of South Korean workers and students, says the paper.

NODONG SINMUN in an article captioned "Products of U.S. Imperialists' Strategy To Invade the North" says that the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises are an extremely adventurous preliminary war and a test nuclear war for a preemptive strike at the northern half of Korea.

The paper informs the readers that meetings denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises were held at the Chaeryong Mine and the Pyongyang Cigarette Factory.

The paper reports statements were issued by foreign organizations condemning the "Team Spirit 91" exercises and news briefings were given at Korean missions abroad in this connection.

The paper says that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged various war exercises against the North.

For 18 Feb

SK1802055991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0535 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Dawda K. Jawara of the Republic of Gambia on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the independence of Gambia.

A letter sent by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the officers and men of the unit 525 of the Korean People's Army was reported by the Japanese NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, says the daily.

It comes out with an article headlined "Our Party Is a Great Guide Leading Revolution and Construction to Victory With Main Stress on Ideology."

The daily reports that the DPRK documentary film "Chong-il Peak, Shine" was screened by the Chinese central TV broadcasting and the PRENSA LATINA News Agency of Cuba published an article praising Comrade Kim Chong-il under the title "Sun Shining the Sky of Pyongyang More Brightly."

It is reported in the daily that crewmen of foreign ships anchoring at Hungnam Port held a meeting on the occasion of the holiday of February and the world progressive people wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life, saying that having him is the pride of the Korean nation and the glory of mankind.

148 triplets who were born till the early 1980s after the liberation of the country were awarded ornamental silver knives and gold rings of love this time thanks to the deep solicitude of our party, says the daily.

It informs the readers of the publication of books showing the immortal feats and greatness of our party on the occasion of the significant holiday of February.

It editorially calls upon all fields and all units of the national economy to successfully carry out the yearly plans by making uninterrupted innovations and continuous progress with firm conviction of victory.

The paper informs the readers that the Komdok mining complex, a major nonferrous metal ore producer of the nation, is increasing the output of lead and zinc ores and innovation is being effected at the construction site of the sariwon potassic fertilizer complex.

The seventh national festivals of youth and children for loyalty opened, reports the paper.

It prints a statement issued by the North side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks in connection with the impossibility of the fourth talks due to the reckless war moves and repressive campaign of the South Korean authorities.

It comments on the terrific hue and cry of the United States over the trite fiction of "threat from the North."

Edited in the daily are articles and voices of the world public demanding an immediate end to the "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers.

The paper runs an article exposing the No Tae-u ruling group's irregularities and swindles.

It is reported in the paper that a spring festival gathering was held in China, the Cultural Hall of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba opened its doors and the information centre of the Soviet Defence Ministry refuted the false rumours about military exercises of the Soviet Army.

It reports that the president of the State of Palestine exposed the purpose of the United States in the Gulf war and carries news of the Gulf war.

The paper observes the 26th anniversary of the independence of Gambia.

For 19 Feb

SK1902063791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0545 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—Papers here today observe the 17th anniversary of the publication of the work on some immediate tasks of party ideological work for modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il on February 19, 1974. On this occasion NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for accelerating socialist construction more powerfully with the Paekku revolutionary spirit, the high revolutionary spirit of our people, to struggle to the end following the great leader.

Papers come out with articles explaining that modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea is a great programme to carry forward and accomplish the cause of socialism and communism.

MINJU CHOSON deals with the deep trust and care shown by the great leader President Kim Il-sung for the intellectuals to bring them up to be chuche-type revolutionary intellectuals.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN is a message of greetings sent by the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea to the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece.

The paper reports that the powerful wave of "the model machine movement of loyalty for emulating lathe No. 26", a mass movement for effectively controlling equipment, is sweeping all domains and all units of the national economy in accordance with the noble intention of our party.

Ecconews of the press includes a report about farming preparations.

NODONG SINMUN carries a commentator's article headlined "Traitors Will Be Held Responsible for Division Before History and the Nation" denouncing the South Korean authorities' campaign for unilateral U.N. membership.

Under the title "Singlehearted Unity of the Leader, the Party and the Popular Masses is the Spirit of Korea" the paper conveys world public voices expressing deep emotion at the unbreakable unity and cohesion and the might of the Korean people who are firmly rallied around the party and the leader.

The new DPRK ambassador presented his credentials to the Nigerian president and a friendship meeting, a round-table conversation and a film show with officials of the DPRK Embassy were held in Denmark, says the paper.

Papers carry lists of our side's members of the working committee of the North-South unified table tennis team to the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and the working committee of the North-South unified soccer team to the 6th World Youth Soccer Championships published by the DPRK Olympic Committee.

A commentary of NODONG SINMUN says the South Korean authorities can never avoid the blame for having made it impossible to hold the fourth inter-Korean high-level talks as scheduled.

The Soviet paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the Cuban paper GRANMA and radio of that country and the U.S. paper GUARDIAN and foreign public organizations hit at the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to the press.

Papers convey words of Soviet Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Rogachov that Korea must be reunified without foreign interference.

Resolutions and recommendations urging the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations were adopted in local areas of Japan and a 1991 New Year's meeting of sportsmen for Korea-Japan friendship was held in Tokyo, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Yang Shangkun and Li Xiannian participated in a Lunar New Year's celebration in Shanghai and deals with achievements in socialist construction in Cuba.

The Palestinian president urged the United States to stop the Gulf war, reports the paper.

The paper runs an article hitting out at the aggressive acts of the U.S. imperialists against small nations under absurd grounds.

An article of MINJU CHOSON exposes the U.S. imperialists' moves to gratify their desire to dominate the world, under the pretext of "establishing a new world order."

Papers carry news of the Gulf war.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers of the worsening economic situation in Poland.

South Korea

No Tae-u Reshuffles Cabinet, Other Posts

SK1802073091 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0650 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] President No Tae-u today reshuffled the Cabinet and other government posts as follows:

Minister of the Economic Planning Board [EPB]: Choe Kak-kyu, chairman of the Political Committee of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

Minister of construction: Yi Chin-sol, vice minister of the EPB.

Mayor of Seoul: Yi Hae-won, former minister of health and social affairs.

Presidential senior secretary for governmental affairs: No Kun- il, vice minister of home affairs.

Vice minister of the EPB: Chin Yom, vice minister of finance.

Vice minister of home affairs: Choe In-ki, governor of South Cholla Province.

Vice minister of finance: Yi Su-hyu, commissioner of Customs Administration.

Vice minister of construction: Yi Sang-yong, former governor of Kangwon Province.

Commissioner of Customs Administration: Kim Ki-on, deputy commissioner of Customs Administration.

Deputy mayor of Seoul: Pak Sang-sung, officer in charge of water supply of the Seoul municipal government.

Governor of South Cholla Province: Park Hyong-chu.

No Tae-u Reshuffles Ruling Party Leadership

SK1902081791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0720 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 19 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u replaced the secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and filled a couple of vacant posts Tuesday.

Outgoing DLP Secretary-general Chong Sun-tok was succeeded by whip Kim Yun-hwan, who was succeeded by Rep. Kim Chong-ho, and Rep. Na Ung-pae named chairman of the Policy Committee, a post made vacant Monday when Choe Kak-kyu was appointed deputy prime minister.

The reshuffle followed a partial cabinet shakeup Monday to calm public criticism over the Suwo housing scandal. The announcement was scheduled for the morning but was delayed by discord between No and DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam.

Late Monday, No and Kim reportedly agreed to retain the floor leader and replace the secretary-general with Rep. So Chong-hwa and make Na, a former deputy prime minister, chief policy-maker.

Floor leader Kim visited Executive Chairman Kim early Tuesday and insisted on resigning.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said the delay in the announcement was not because of discord between the president and his executive chairman but because selection of appropriate people for the DLP's three most important posts needed time.

New Secretary-general Kim, 59, is a former journalist. A highschool classmate of No's, Kim was senior secretary for political affairs under president Chon Tu-hwan and was Chon's secretary- general. He contributed greatly to the smooth transfer of power from Chon to No.

The three-term lawmaker also played an important role in the merger of the ruling Democratic Justice Party with Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party of Kim Chong-pil early last year.

New floor leader Kim Chong-ho, also a three-term lawmaker, is a veteran of the Home Affairs Ministry. The 56-year-old entered the National Assembly on a proportional representation ticket of the DJP in 1981 and served as chairman of the Home Affairs Committee. He was home affairs minister in 1986-87.

New chief policy-maker Na has held various posts in academic, government and political circles. He taught business management at Seoul National University and Chungang University and was president of Hankook Tire Manufacturing Co. Before he became an assemblyman in 1981.

Na was president of Aju University and finance minister, trade and industry minister and deputy prime minister and Economic Planning Board minister in the last two governments. He is also a three-term assemblyman.

No Tae-u Carries Out Ambassadorial Reshuffle

SK1902013691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0031 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 19 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u named Hyon Hong-chu, chief of the South Korean

observer mission to the United Nations, ambassador to the United States in a reshuffle of major diplomatic postings Tuesday.

Ambassador O Chae-hui was transferred from Britain to Japan and Yi Hong-ku, special presidential assistant for political affairs, was assigned to the Court of St. James's. Hyon was replaced at the U.N. by No Chang-hui, a former senior presidential secretary for protocol.

Ambassadors Pak Tong-chin and Yi Won-kyong in Washington and Tokyo were transferred to the Foreign Ministry.

Protocol Chief Pak Kon-u was named ambassador to Canada and Kim Song-chin, president of the International Cultural Society of Korea, ambassador to Singapore.

Yi Chang-pom, assistant foreign minister for planning and management, was made ambassador to Australia and ambassador Kim Se- taek was moved from Singapore to Denmark. Paek Song-il, minister in New Delhi, was named ambassador to Brunei.

Ambassador to Denmark Chang Son-sop was given the ministry post of protocol chief and Chang Man-sun, chief of education and training at the ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security [IFANS], was named assistant foreign minister for planning and management.

Chang's post at IFANS was given to Yi Chong-su, chief of Western Europe-Africa-Middle East research at the institute, who was replaced by Yi Tong-ik, ambassador to Kenya.

Hyon, 51, the new ambassador to the United States, is a native of Seoul. He studied law at Seoul National University (SNU) and Columbia University, New York, and passed the state judiciary test. He has served as deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning, lawmaker for President Chon Tu-hwan's Democratic Justice Party and director of the Office of Legislative Administration.

O, 59, ambassador to Japan, studied political science at SNU and passed the state test for administration posts. A career diplomat, he was the Foreign Ministry's director-general for information and cultural affairs, and later for Asian affairs and a minister at Korea's embassies in Tokyo and Washington. Before being named ambassador to Britain, he was ambassador to Pakistan and dean of IFANS.

Yi Hong-ku, 57, ambassador to Britain, is a native of Seoul. An SNU law school dropout, he graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, GA., and earned a Ph.D. in political science from Yale. He taught political science at SNU until being named national unification minister in 1988.

No, 53, ambassador to the United Nations, is a native of Hapchon, South Kyongsang Province. He studied economics at SNU and passed the state test for administration posts. A career diplomat, he was Foreign Ministry director-general for international organizations and treaties, minister in Washington and ambassador to Nigeria.

Kim Song-chin, 60, ambassador to Singapore, studied economics at Korea University. His first job was reporter for the vernacular daily HANGUK ILBO in 1956. He went on to become political editor at ORIENT PRESS, which was later merged into YONHAP News Agency, culture-information minister under President Pak Chong-hui (1975- 79), president of ORIENT PRESS and president of YONHAP.

Pak, 54, ambassador to Canada, is a native of Taedok, South Chungchong Province. He studied law at SNU and passed the state test for administration posts. A career diplomat, he served as counselor in Washington, minister in Nigeria, Foreign Ministry director-general for American affairs, and ambassador to Colombia.

Yi Chang-pom, 56, ambassador to Australia, is a native of Miryang, South Kyongsang Province. He studied law at SNU. A career diplomat, he served as Foreign Ministry director-general for Middle East affairs, consul-general in Baghdad, and assistant foreign minister for planning and management.

Kim Se-taek, 53, ambassador to Denmark, is a native of Cheju Island. He studied administration at SNU. A career diplomat, he served as counselor in Saudi Arabia and Mexico, consul-general in Cairo, and the Foreign Ministry's director-general for international organizations and treaties.

Paek, 55, ambassador to Brunei, is a native of Seoul. He studied English at Hanguk University of Foreign Studies. A career diplomat, he served as counselor in Sierra Leone and in Italy, consul in Kobe, Japan, and researcher at IFANS.

Protocol Chief Chang Son-sop, 56, studied law at SNU. He served as chief of the Foreign Ministry's U.N. division, minister in Saudi Arabia, director-general for American affairs, and minister in Washington.

Assistant Foreign Minister Chang Man-sun, 54, is a native of Seoul. He studied law at SNU. A career diplomat, he served as counselor in Tokyo, minister in Vienna, Foreign Ministry director- general for European affairs, and ambassador to Bangladesh.

No Tae-u Apologizes for Suso Housing Case

SK1902122191 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Speech by President No Tae-u; place not given—live]

[Text] My fellow countrymen: The recently reported scandal of the Suso housing case in Seoul must have been shocking to you. The government has made an intensive

audit and investigation of this case for 15 days, since 5 February. As a result, it has been revealed that there was an error in the decision-making on a special supply of the housing sites in the Suso district to the housing associations and that there was fraud in the process of making the decision. As the head in charge of state affairs, I apologize to the people for this.

It is very regrettable that five lawmakers were arrested in connection with this case. In particular, a secretary of the Chongwadae was arrested for involvement in this case, and I apologize to the people for this as I feel responsible for it.

My fellow countrymen, I have promised to you that I will realize clean government as an impartial president, and have made special efforts for it. With the launch of this government, we have realized a democratic society in which everyone can speak freely and criticize freely. We are now living in a society characterized by a new situation in which it is impossible to impose wrongs forcibly or hide irregularities or fraud. The Suso housing case is a living example that clearly proves this.

The new situation of the times demands a new way of thinking, a new way of actions. However, some public office holders and politicians still adhere to the old way of thinking that privilege and irregularities will work. Irregularities came about as a result of this. I understand how great and deep your disappointment and anger have been over the case. As a president elected by the people themselves, I renew my firm resolve to be a clean president above all and to take the lead to root out any fraud and irregularities and achieve clean and honest government. I believe that this is the aspiration of all the people and the most urgent task to restore the credibility of our society.

All public office holders should squarely see the new situation of the times and the people's aspirations, execute fairly all kinds of work—from the execution of the civil petitions, which are directly connected with the people's lives, to the decision-making of important policies—and carry them out free from corruption so that they may earn the people's trust.

The government will execute various civil petitions and make decisions on various policies more openly, pushing ahead with revising and improving relevant systems to preclude the possibility of irregularities, and will push ahead with fundamental measures so that public office holders may not be tempted into irregularities. At the same time, if public office holders should be involved in fraud and irregularities, I will not tolerate them, whether they are in high or low positions.

It is unfortunate that as many as eight lawmakers have been arrested in connection with the lawmakers' overseas trip case and the Suso housing case since the special National Assembly session in January.

Moreover, the recent scandal has deepened public distrust of politicians and political circles as a whole. This is a serious thing.

As president of Korea, as well as president of the ruling party, I hope that the political circles of rival parties will join in purifying the political climate on their own so that they can restore public confidence in them by putting clean politics into practice.

I also call on both the ruling party and opposition parties to effect a speedy, systematic, and bold reform to do away with the money-spending political climate.

Toward this end, both the ruling party and opposition parties should, first, reform the current election system by strengthening the public management of the elections so that clean elections can become reality.

Second, I think it is necessary to revise the law governing the political fund in order to guarantee clean political activity and fair running of the political parties.

Third, the politicians of rival parties should establish sound political ethics on their own and make a joint effort in practicing these ethics. Accordingly, the National Assembly acts should also be amended.

I urge the ruling and opposition parties to start negotiations for reforming the political climate at the earliest possible date. The ruling and opposition parties should set examples in revising laws according to the desire of the people and in abiding by them.

Trust in politics cannot grow in a place in which politics is conducted with dishonest, corrupt money. Realizing clean politics will indeed be the foundation for building a clean and healthy society after doing away with the corruption and irregularities that are lingering in every corner of our society.

For a sound development in our economy and for national reconciliation, if for no other reason, the sources of political corruption should be removed.

Leadership in our society as a whole are in a crisis, with their credibility being questioned. All walks of our society and leadership should take the lead in creating clean water where they stand and in pumping the cleaned water into our society.

My dear fellow countrymen: It is regrettable that the Suso housing scandal has created an uproar at a time when, externally, the war in the Gulf spits fire, and, domestically, there is a mountain of tasks, including the economy and people's livelihood, that need to be resolved immediately.

We should turn this incident into something like a misfortune turning into a blessing to build a clean government, clean politics, and a healthy society.

Incidents like the Suso housing scandal do not mean that everything goes wrong. During the last year alone, a total

of 750,000 dwelling units have been built, allowing more than 3 million people to own new houses of their own. Not the whole of our society is corrupt and ill.

There are countless government officials who, even at this moment, are working sincerely and enthusiastically to serve the people, toiling day in and day out, with meager pay and difficult working conditions. Also, there are many conscientious politicians who try to sincerely speak for the public desire.

The majority of the people are working with their sweat, without complaining, under difficult circumstances. It is thanks to the pool of such strength that we have built a country full of energy.

I appeal to the people to solve the immediate tasks by drawing a lesson from this unfortunate incident and find a way of building a pleasant, healthy society, pooling your creative strength in achieving uninterrupted development of our country.

Thank you.

Iraqi Proposal 'Has No Plausible Substance'

SK1602014891 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0100 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] At a meeting of foreign, home, defense, justice, and energy ministers held this morning and presided over by Prime Minister No Chae-pong, the government is reported to have discussed what steps to take with regard to the Iraqi Revolution Council's proposal to pull troops from Kuwait with conditions.

After hearing reports from the ministers of foreign affairs and defense on an analysis of the Iraqi Revolution Council's proposal to pull the Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, the participants in today's meeting exchanged opinions on what additional steps the government should take.

The participants in today's meeting of the ministers concerned are reported to have agreed to push ahead with the plan for sending an Air Force transportation group to the Gulf on 19 February as scheduled in the belief that the Iraqi proposal has no plausible substance.

Former Orders 'Wait-and-See Attitude'

SK1602041191 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] At a meeting of foreign, home, defense, justice, and energy ministers held this morning and presided over by Prime Minister No Chae-pong, the government is reported to have discussed what steps to take with regard to the Iraqi Revolution Council's proposal for pulling troops out of Kuwait with conditions.

In their reports at today's meeting of ministers, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku explained that Iraq's proposal for withdrawing its troops with conditions may stem from an affirmative intent to end the war as Iraq has incurred a great loss due to air raids by the coalition forces, as well as from a strategic calculation aimed at delaying ground combat which is considered to be imminent.

Commenting on this, Prime Minister No Chae-pong ordered the ministers to adopt a wait-and-see attitude concerning this development and take appropriate steps while pushing ahead with the plan for sending an ROK Air Force transportation group to the Gulf on 18 or 19 February, arguing that a study of the developing situation reveals no basic changes in Iraq's attitude.

Meanwhile, an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commenting on Iraq's proposal for withdrawing its troops from Kuwait with conditions, said that as Iraq's proposal contains various conditions that do not sit well with the UN Security Council resolutions, including No. 660, it is difficult to view it as a genuine expression of Iraq's intention to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

This official added: The government hopes that Iraq will show its sincere will to settle the situation in the Gulf by accepting various resolutions, including that of the UN Security Council.

Ceremony Held To Send Air Force Men to Gulf

SK1802071491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0652 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 18 (YONHAP)—A dispatch ceremony was held Monday at Kimpo International Airport for 150 South Korean Air Force servicemen going to the Gulf with five C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

"As part of the multinational forces culminating the spirit of the United Nations, we intend to perform support operations in a way that fully demonstrates the combat excellence of the Korean Air Force," Col. Yi Chae-ki, head of the unit, said.

The contingent, comprising 22 pilots, 67 mechanics and 61 supplementary crew members, leaves in two groups for a U.S. air base home in al-'Ayn, the United Arab Emirates, Tuesday and Wednesday. Korea sent a 154-member medical support team to the region last month.

"Voluntary participation in multinational efforts to retaliate for the criminal invasion, destroying freedom and peace, attests to our international commitment and responsibility," Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku told the 2,500 people gathered for the ceremony. "Also for the sake of cooperation with the United States and Arab countries, we made this decision."

North Calls Off Prime Ministers' Talks

SK1802024791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 18 (YONHAP)—North Korea has called off talks between the prime ministers of the two Koreas to protest the annual South Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" military exercise.

Pyongyang announced Monday that the fourth round of prime ministers talks, slated for Feb. 25 in Pyongyang, would not take place, according to Naewoe Press, Seoul's watcher of communist affairs.

North Korea lashed out at South Korea in radio broadcasts that said Team Spirit was the cause of the breakoff in inter-Korean dialogue.

"South Korea should take all responsibility for the cancelled fourth round of inter-Korean prime ministers talks," Naewoe quoted Radio Pyongyang and Central Radio as saying.

The reduced scale and period of the defensive exercises, they said, were an admission of "their criminal character" and the radios put responsibility on the United States as well, Naewoe said.

Government Criticizes North

SK1802063391 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] In connection with the North Korean side's declaring the suspension of the North-South high-level talks, the government, through a statement by Choe Pyong-po, spokesman for the National Unification Board, expressed disappointment and regret, saying that this step taken by North Korea shows that the North Korean side is still using the North-South high-level talks as part of its southward strategy based on its reunification front.

Spokesman Choe Pyong-po was responding to North Korea's absurd criticism of our side using our defensive Team Spirit exercise as an excuse while it is conducting the largest anti-airraid exercise in 10 years, under the pretext of the Gulf war, deploying its massive heavily equipped troops in an offensive forward formation extensively along the truce line, building up offensive weapons.

Spokesman Choe noted the North Korean side's contradictory actions in rejecting the North-South high-level talks while carrying on the sports talks and strongly urged the North Korean side to come to the conference table as soon as possible and meet faithfully with the aspirations of the 70 million fellow countrymen for peace, reunification, and national reconciliation.

Spokesman Urges Return to Talks

SK1802072291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea still sees dialogue as part of a grand strategy to unify the Korean Peninsula by subverting South Korea, National Unification Board spokesman Choe Pyong-po charged Monday.

North Korea announced earlier in the day that it had called off the prime ministers' talks scheduled for Feb. 25 in Pyongyang because of the Gulf war and the annual South Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" joint military exercise.

"We South Koreans are disappointed and regret that the North hangs on to its die-hard negative attitude toward the talks," he said. "Last year we saw the premiers of the two Koreas cross the border three times to have talks on easing confrontation and expanding bilateral exchanges for the first time since the division of the peninsula.

"It is ridiculous that North Korea uses the Gulf crisis as an excuse for cancelling the talks because there were inter-Korean exchanges even after the Gulf crisis began."

He said it was universally known that Team Spirit was a defensive exercise and that before condemning it the North should go out of its way to create an atmosphere that would make it unnecessary.

Noting that the sports talks were unaffected, he said the South would continue to negotiate with sincerity in any channel open to it.

"Above all, we urge North Korea to return to the premiers' talks immediately," Choe said.

Editorial Views Talks' Suspension

SK1902074991 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 19 Feb 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Reasons That Were Cited in Suspending the North-South Premiers' Talks"]

[Text] The North Korean authorities announced over Pyongyang radios on the morning of 18 February that they would suspend the North-South high-level talks. We feel that our faint hopes have been crushed. Just a week ago, the North and South agreed to form single soccer and table tennis teams for the first time since the division, thus kindling hopes among the people. These two developments are inconsistent.

Presumably, the North Korean authorities had their reasons to suspend the talks. However, we do not think that the reasons that Pyongyang cited over the radio on 18 February are sufficient for it to suspend the fourth North-South high-level talks. Pyongyang's first reason was, as we had presumed, the Team Spirit exercise. When asked during a news interview that took place right after the third talks in Seoul on 13 December whether the Team Spirit exercise would affect the high-level talks, An Pyong-su, a spokesman for the North side's delegation, clearly said that the talks "cannot be suspended." Also, the Team Spirit exercise is a widely known annual event, and we invited North Korea to observe this exercise in recent years. Moreover, considering North-South dialogue, we substantially reduced the scale of this exercise this year.

At a time when the fourth talks are only a week away, the North Korean authorities announced that they would suspend the talks because of the Team Spirit exercise.

This is unreasonable. Whenever it suspends North-South talks, it blames the Team Spirit exercise. We doubt that this strategy will work this time.

North Korea's second reason was that "persons in authority in South Korea avoid dialogue and are kicking up confrontation and war commotions." North Korea said that it would suspend the talks because, seizing the so-called "Gulf war, South Korea declared an emergency wartime system." This is another reason to which North Korea has frequently referred. However, we did not declare an "emergency wartime system" because of the Gulf war. If North Korea said this in connection with our medical assistance and the planned dispatch of a transportation unit, this is a deplorably mistaken assessment of the situation indeed.

The Gulf war is directly linked to our existence, and a little economic assistance, medical assistance, and the dispatch of a transportation unit are merely a natural contribution as a beneficiary of the international community. Also, this contribution of ours does not harm North Korea in any respect, nor can it be used as an excuse to suspend North-South dialogue. This is why the historic achievements of agreeing to form single teams could be gained in the sports talks.

North Korea also said that it would suspend the talks because "persons in authority in South Korea are suffering from political disarray and economic stagnation." In their eagerness to believe in the superiority of socialism and the chuche idea, they negatively view the operation of political and economic affairs in a democratic society as a matter of course. Still, no one will believe the idea that our political and economic situation has threatened North-South dialogue.

We would like to think that North Korea could not help but temporarily suspend the premiers' talks because of its own internal circumstances. We hope that these circumstances will be removed at the earliest possible date, thus rekindling our hopes.

Postponement 'No Surprise'

SK1902234491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] North Korea yesterday unilaterally suspended inter-Korean prime ministers' talks just one week before the fourth round was scheduled to begin in Pyongyang, complaining of South Korea's annual joint military exercises with the United States.

North Korea watchers here, however, said that the action came as "no surprise," adding that Pyongyang is expected to ask resumption of the highest-level dialogue sometime after the Team Spirit drills end in late April.

The North Korean delegation to the talks issued a statement accusing the South of "causing provocative turmoil by announcing the war game after putting its armed forces into an emergency state upon the beginning of the Gulf war."

In the statement carried by the (North) Korean Central News Agency, the North Koreans claimed that the South is stepping up confrontation.

"We have no intention to follow them as they run away from dialogue," the statement added.

It further maintained that the United States and South Korea should share the responsibility for the interruption of the inter-Korean talks.

The statement was also broadcast by North Korean propaganda media Radio Pyongyang.

The prime ministers of the two halves have met three times since last September—twice in Seoul and once in Pyongyang—with political, military and economic issues on their agenda.

The previous meetings have only confirmed wide disparity in their positions on the most important matters with few signs of substantial progress.

The South is concentrating its efforts on arranging a more substantial meeting of Presidents No Tae-u and Kim Il-song instead of the unfruitful meetings between the number two men. In connection with this move, the unification minister recently promoted to the level of deputy prime minister will be replaced by the vice unification minister in the southern delegation.

Official North Korea watchers at the board forecast that the North will have to return to the dialogue channel sooner or later as far as it wants to continue negotiation with Japan on normalization of ties.

Driven hard by South Korea and the United States, Japan is calling for the North's sincere attitude toward these talks with the South and for permission of on-site inspections of its nuclear facilities by international experts.

The Seoul officials say that the North puts great importance to the ongoing talks with Japan as it needs Japanese yen to inject vigor into its ailing economy.

Could Jeopardize North-Japan Talks

SK1902034191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 (Yonhap)—North Korea might have jeopardized talks with Japan on normalizing relations by its cancellation of talks between the South and North Korean prime ministers, a Foreign Ministry source said Tuesday.

The source said he was embarrassed that Pyongyang called off the premiers' talks because of the South Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" joint military exercise and felt regret.

Pyongyang announced Monday in radio broadcasts it had canceled the fourth round of prime ministerial talks, slated for Feb. 25 in the North Korean capital, and said that Team Spirit was the reason.

The Japanese Government was bewildered, the official said, as North Korea seemed to be linking politics with military affairs again although South Korea had reduced the size of Team Spirit by 30 percent and North Korea had agreed to form a single Korean team for the World Table Tennis Championships in Japan in April.

The source said Tokyo would urge Pyongyang to continue dialogue with Seoul in meetings with Kim Yong-son, a secretary in the North Korean Workers (communist) Party, who is due here Wednesday.

Progress in inter-Korean dialogue was a major premise for the Pyongyang-Tokyo talks on normalization of ties, he said.

North Postpones Contact on IPU General Assembly

SK1802091391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea said Monday it was not ready to accept a letter from South Korea regarding the Inter-parliamentary Union [IPU] General Assembly in Pyongyang, the inter-Korean dialogue Secretariat said.

National Assembly speaker Pak Chun-kyu had sent a telephone message Feb. 13 to Yang Hyong-sop, the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, saying he would deliver a letter through the border village of Panmunjom on Tuesday.

Yang notified Pak Monday afternoon that he would respond to the request "at an appropriate time," the Secretariat said.

Pyongyang is to host the 85th IPU General Assembly in April, and Seoul hopes to send as many as 25 delegates to the international forum.

North Korea earlier Monday announced in radio broadcasts it was calling off the fourth round of inter-Korean premiers' talks, accusing the South Korean Government of insincerity for the talks by refusing to cancel the "team spirit" joint military exercises with the United States.

Officials: Power Struggle in North's Army Possible

SK1902100791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0936 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea has indicated that a power struggle is going on within its Army by announcing last week that "revisionists and opportunists are plotting to take off the leadership of the Communist Workers Party from the Army and deny the command of President (Kim Il-sung) and party's leadership over the Army," officials at the National Unification Board [NUB] said Tuesday.

Radio Pyongyang reported Friday that officers and men of the 525 unit of the Korean People's Army had pledged that they were ready to complete the Army's preparedness under the leadership of the leader even though "modern revisionists and opportunists instigated by the U.S. and other imperialists" are plotting to separate the leadership of the party over the Army.

An NUB official said it was the first time North Korea had admitted there was opposition in the Army to the planned dynastic succession from President Kim Il-sung to son and heir-apparent Kim Chong-il.

"It is noteworthy that the pledge came out one day before the junior Kim's birthday, Feb. 16," he said, explaining that "revisionists" are the Soviet Union, "opportunists" are dissidents and "the party" is Kim Chong-il.

When they said they would complete the Army's preparedness by themselves under the leadership of Kim Chong-il, with their own power and in their own style, they meant they would establish Kim as the supreme commander of the Army, he said.

This meant control of the Army would soon be transferred from Kim Il-sung to Kim Chong-il, he said, adding that he expected similar pledges to be issued by other army units.

North Korea's cancelation of the fourth round of South-North Korean prime ministerial talks was probably related to this situation and the talks would remain suspended as long as the power struggle continued, he said.

North Korea announced the breakoff Monday, citing the South Korean-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit" as the reason.

Prof. Yu Sok-yul of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security says the possibility of a power struggle in the North Korean army cannot be ruled out but the pledge may have been simply a warning to dissidents.

North Korean radio reported last week that the Workers Party had crushed ideological anti-revolutionary elements within the party.

Radio Pyongyang and central radio reported that the Communist Party had smashed maneuvers by "anti-party" and "anti-revolutionary" elements to stain the "pure blood lineage of the party" and had overcome all

"unorthodox ideological tendencies," according to Naewoe Press, Seoul's official watcher of communist affairs.

Working-Level Delegates for Joint Teams Named

SK1802041291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0350 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Olympic Committee (KOC) selected Monday the five South Korean officials for each South-North working-level committee on the formation of joint Korean teams to the World Table Tennis and Youth Soccer Championships.

South and North Korea agreed Feb. 12 to send one Korean team to the 41st World Table Tennis Championships in Chiba, Japan, in April, and one to the 6th World Youth Football Championships in Portugal in June.

Pak Song-on, vice president of the Korea Table Tennis Association, was named head Southern delegate to the table tennis committee and O Wan-kun, vice president of the Korea Football Association, head delegate to the soccer committee.

KOC will inform the North of the 10 names in the afternoon.

Burma

Supreme Court Rules Against DPRK in 1983 Bombing

SK1802035191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0336 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—The 1983 bombing of the National Cemetery in Burma (now Myanmar) in which four cabinet members and 13 other South Koreans died was carried out by North Korea to assassinate then-president Chon Tu-hwan and his top officials, the Myanmar Supreme Court has ruled.

The bomb exploded just before Chon was to arrive.

North Korean Army Maj. Chin Mo, Capt. Kang Min-choi and Capt. Sin Ki-chol planted bombs at the Aungsan National Cemetery under orders from Kang Chang-su, a special unit commander in the North Korean People's Armed Forces Ministry, a diplomatic source here said on Monday.

North Korea claims Seoul planted the bombs.

Based on the confessions of the two survivors, witnesses and material evidence such as shrapnel, the ruling said, the three left the North Korean port of Wonsan by ship on Sept. 9, 1983, and entered Rangoon on Sept. 22, where they plotted the bombing in the quarters of North Korean diplomats. The bombing incident took place on Oct. 9 of the year.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the diplomatic source said he has just confirmed the Burmese Supreme Court ruling.

The court, dismissing the final appeals of the two, upheld the death sentence but said it had deferred execution for Kang because he had confessed, the source said.

After the bombing, Rangoon cut diplomatic relations with Pyongyang, which accused Seoul of bombing its own government officials.

Wa Army Poised To Attack Khun Sa Base

BK1702030091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Chiang Mai—About 2,000 heavily-armed guerrillas of the United Wa State Army [UWSA] are poised to attack a stronghold of drug tsar Khun Sa in what looms as a potentially massive and bloody battle.

They aim to attack Khun Sa on Doi Lang in a bid to take control of the area along the Thai-Burmese border opposite Mae Ai District, a military commander of the Muang Thai Army said.

Col Yab Mong, commander of the drug warlord, said Doi Lang is considered to be the major backdoor of Khun Sa's stronghold.

They will not let it fall into the hands of the enemy, he said.

He also said that his forces will fight until the last man or woman.

Col Yab Mong said he learned that some 2,000 UWSA men had withdrawn from Ban Hua Mae Kham opposite Mae Chan District of Chiang Rai to take up new positions at Doi San Chu, Doi Pla Hom Pok and Doi Samao.

He claimed that about 400 UWSA soldiers, suffering from wounds inflicted by landmines, were sent for medical treatment at a Burmese military field hospital nearby.

About 240 guerrillas of the two Burmese ethnic groups were killed and about 700 wounded in a series of fights since early last month.

A Border Patrol Police source said another group of 600 UWSA troops from Muang Pang Sang in Shan State have headed for Doi Pha Hom Pok.

They also brought along with them 2,000 kilogrammes of opium and an amount of heroin.

SLORC Strategy Against Rebels Reviewed

BK1802042091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Feb 91 p A13

[By Yindi Lorsuharoenchok]

[Text] Burma's military regime has launched a massive campaign over the past few months to end domestic pressure against it by under-cutting the strength of both urban opposition political parties and border dissident movements.

The results have been quite positive for the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), which has managed to negotiate peace with some of its longest-term enemies in recent times, including the ethnic Kokang and Wa armies, who led a revolt in early 1989 to topple the hardline Burma Communist Party.

Apart from these two militarily-strongest groups, Slorc has been able to cause splits in one of the remaining armed resistance groups in the area, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), by negotiating the defection of a small military faction.

In the cities, Slorc has used its armed might to successfully suppress any popular dissent or calls for its replacement by the civilian legislators elected in last May's general election. At this point even the National League for Democracy (NLD), the largest opposition group, does not dare to voice opposition or stray from Slorc's lengthy timeframe for "democracy", as all the key politicians and activists have been put behind bars.

With the unexpected "return to the legal fold" (as Slorc put it) of two NLD defectors who participated in the formation of a rival government at a Karen camp on the Thai-Burmese border last December, the hopes for political change in Burma looks as dim as in 1988 when Slorc staged a bloody coup d'etat to take power.

While all signs are pointing to an increasingly intransigent stance by the Slorc, the KIO as well as its comrade-in-arms the Karen National Union (KNU), which form the core of the 21-member armed dissident Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) have stated their resolute intention to continue to fight Slorc until Burma achieves true democracy.

Although the two ethnic resistances realize the fragility of ethnicity and the "divide and rule" strategy the Slorc has been pursuing to split the cooperation of the ethnic armies, the KIO and KNU are confident that they along with other DAB members will survive the ploy.

In a recent interview with The Nation, KNU vice president Saw Than Aung and KIO spokesman Lahang Lum said they believed the Slorc's next move would be "to try to split and finally wipe out the DAB," which now poses as its only remaining military threat.

"I am 100 per cent sure that they will try to split us and destroy the KNU" said Saw Than Aung.

At the same time, the Slorc will try to annul the NLD parallel administration known officially as the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, which has allied itself with the DAB.

Both Saw Than Aung and Lahang Lum have played down the impact of peace deals between the Slorc and other ethnic resistances on their own organizations and the DAB, although they believe the KNU and the KIO are the two main targets of the Slorc's military operations now that Slorc does not have to concentrate their troops in northern Shan State against the communists, the Kokang or the Wa.

"Their main target now is the KNU. If they overrun the KNU then other ethnic forces will not be a problem to them," said Saw Than Aung, who predicted that the KNU headquarters of Manerplaw would come under heavy shelling and attack during this dry season, as it is also the base of the NLD government, the dissident All Burma Students' Democratic Front, the All Burma Young Monks Union, and the National Democratic Front.

While accepting that the Slorc has the upper hand militarily over the KNU especially in terms of hardware, Saw Than Aung, who is also a senior leader of the DAB, said "the KNU has its own plan of operations against the Slorc."

The Karen will try to defend Manerplaw, which is strategically accessible only through the waterway of the Moei River or via air. Overland attacks are out of the question as the ground KNU troops as well as the rolling hills of the Dawna Range form excellent defensive lines.

Since 1988, the Slorc has staged heavy offensives to wipe out the Karen and the Mon who have controlled the long strip of border area running opposite Thailand's Mae Hong Son Province down to Burma's southern tip of Victory Point for decades. The KNU, while having lost many of its economic and military border bases, still controls about 70 per cent of the border while continuing guerrilla warfare in the areas where the Slorc has access.

The KIO spokesman, meanwhile, expressed his belief that the peace the Slorc managed to secure from the Wa, the Kokang and one of the Shan resistance groups would last as long as the relations still benefitted the Slorc.

"They are using this divide and rule tactic, and the peace deals will be only for short term benefit. In the long run I believe the Slorc has no sincerity towards these parties," he said.

While Lahang Lum confirmed the defection in December and January of some personnel from the 4th brigade of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the military wing of the KIO, he said the number of the defectors was small, and that the majority of the 4th Brigade based in northern Shan State had turned down a peace deal with the Slorc, which he said included "a proposal allowing them to keep their arms and territory in exchange for their cooperation."

He said the KIO would not negotiate with the Slorc unless the peace talks would be conducted in a broader framework of the DAB in a [words indistinct] government had suffered a "little political setback" been happening in Burma.

He will also be present along with other DAB representatives at the ongoing [passage indistinct] account of the Slorc's human rights violations. The Slorc will also have a delegation at the forum.

The Karen and the Kachin along with other ethnic resistance have agreed that peace in Burma is possible only through genuine negotiations and not fighting. Saw Than Aung said the KNU wanted to see an end to the civil wars but the consecutive Burmese military governments had rejected any peace talks.

"We are not fighting the Burmese people, but the Burmese military junta," he said "The Slorc has no courage to confront us politically on the table but has the courage to continue their arrests, torture and killing of innocent Burmese people."

Lashio College Reopens in Northern Shan State

BK1602143791 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Lashio College reopened on 11 February in Lashio, the capital of Northern Shan State, and first and second year students are attending classes.

Lashio College, which was closed for three years since the 1988 events, was reopened in response to the wishes of parents and students, thanks to the efforts of the principal, departmental heads, and faculty members. It has been learned that students are happily attending their first and second year classes and more students from distant places continue to arrive.

College authorities and faculty members are inspecting the college and making necessary arrangements.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Says Iraqi Offer Deserves Consideration

BK1902135491 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Iraq's conditional offer to withdraw from Kuwait should be considered first before any decision is taken. The offer should be given consideration, and if there is anything disagreeable in it, it could be raised, the prime minister added when asked to comment on the U.S. rejection of the offer. He said Malaysia feels sad because there seems to be a strong desire to destroy Iraq when the country on the other hand does not agree to its destruction.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir was speaking to reporters during his visit to Perwaja Steel Sendirian Berhad in Kemaman. He said Malaysia only agreed in the UN Security Council to getting Iraq out of Kuwait. Iraq last Friday [15 February] offered to withdraw from Kuwait on three conditions, but that had been rejected by the United States and the countries of the multinational forces, which have been involved in the month-long military assault on Iraq to get it out of Kuwait.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the United States and the allied forces seem contra on totally destroying Iraq. He questioned the contra in the reactions of the world and the United States to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the West Bank of Jordan to that of Iraq over Kuwait. He said when Iraq attacked Kuwait, the world and the United Nations reacted strongly by sending forces, but such reaction was absent when Israel invaded southern Lebanon and the West Bank of Jordan. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Says Iraqi Proposal 'Positive Step'

BK1602091191 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Malaysia views Iraq's conditional offer to withdraw from Kuwait as a positive step in the right direction. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Datuk Razali Ismail said the Iraqi offer broadcast over Radio Baghdad yesterday should be viewed seriously [words indistinct] certainly not to be rejected outright. He asked the Security Council to consider every aspect of the statement in relation to the council's pertinent solution.

Speaking at a meeting of the Security Council today, Datuk Razali said it should not make the serious mistake of allowing doubts to obstruct the possibility of initiating diplomatic action. The council should also not allow hardened national positions of governments to discourage or obstruct its possible action.

Malaysia believes it is now the time for the council to entrust the UN secretary general to reactivate and intensify all diplomatic efforts. Datuk Razali said that having been a council member, Malaysia has the right to say that no country can arrogate [words indistinct] to conduct the war entirely on its imperatives and interests.

Government 'Dissatisfied' Over Handling

BK1602065091 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Malaysia has expressed its dissatisfaction over the Gulf war being waged, on the traditional sense of one country against another. It also expressed dissatisfaction over the inability of the United Nations Security Council to do anything about the war.

Malaysia's permanent representative to the U.N., Datuk Razali Ismail, said no country, however powerful, could arrogate itself powers to conduct the war entirely on its own emperative and interests. He said this at the U.N. Security Council meeting in New York on situation between Iraq and Kuwait. He also said that there appears to be no means for the U.N. or the international community to apply any structures on the conduct of the war.

Datuk Razali said that the U.N. did not seem to have at all clear central role for at least monitoring various aspects of the conflict. It tends to hold appropriate discussions on the conduct and progress of the war and the council debate had been blocked.

Mahathir on Classification of Developing Nations

BK1902081491 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has clarified that (his earlier expression of) Malaysia becoming a newly industrialized country, NIC, too soon is not to put the brakes on the country's industrialization. He said he has only objected to the term NIC in the classification of developing countries. He feels there is no reason why a country that is growing up fast should suddenly be called a newly industrialized country. He criticized developed countries for putting such a classification. The developed countries do not want the less developed countries to catch up with them. He observed that these countries have failed to do that to Japan. They did not realize it then, and suddenly Japan was with them. But they are going to make sure that no country will achieve Japan's status.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said this in an interview over Radio Television Malaysia's "Conversation With the Prime Minister" program. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir also said it is necessary for the government to give [words indistinct] as preferential treatment of foreign investors. The move is to acquire their knowhow, expertise, and knowledge of the market. In his view, Malaysians (entrepreneurs) are concentrating only on certain extremely lucrative areas. Local investors are not keen to go to manufacturing because it takes a long time to produce results. Besides, they do not have the technology or the market. As a result of this, Malaysia still has to continue to depend on foreign participation in its economy.

Cambodia

Foreign Minister Returns From Thailand

BK1702055191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 91

["Report on Comrade Hor Namhong's Return From the Kingdom of Thailand"]

[Text] At 0800 on the morning of 17 February, Comrade Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], accompanied by Comrade Sok An, deputy foreign minister, safely arrived in Phnom Penh after visiting Bangkok at the invitation of Thai Prime Minister His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan.

Welcoming the delegation at Pochentong Airport were Comrade Yos Son, education minister; Comrade Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister; Comrade Phi Thach, deputy foreign minister, and several cadres from the Foreign Ministry.

At the airport, Comrade Hor Namhong, answering questions raised by national and international reporters, underlined that: We fully support the fine initiative of the Thai prime minister for we think that the reconstruction of Cambodia is in the interest of the Cambodian people as a whole, and not for any particular party at all. The comrade continued: If the Cambodian parties are in agreement to work together to create a climate of mutual trust, this would promote an early settlement of the Cambodian problem. We have goodwill and are optimistic about a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

SOC Outlines Demands for Solution

BK1602135991 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Feb 91

["Report on the activities of Comrade Hor Namhong, foreign minister, in the Kingdom of Thailand"]

[Text] On 15 February, in Bangkok, during talks with Comrade Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, to exchange views on the Cambodian problem, His Excellency General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, proposed the setting up of a working group of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. His Excellency the Thai prime minister stressed that if a political solution is not yet achieved, the reconstruction issue should also be considered, particularly the repair of infrastructures such as airports, the building of national roads, electricity production, the repair of Kompong Som port, and so on. His Excellency also proposed that the SNC working group comprise members from or outside the SNC. The group should meet and talk about restoring the country because this is not a political issue.

Comrade Hor Namhong welcomed this initiative and expressed thanks for the hospitality of His Excellency the Thai prime minister. Afterward, Comrade Hor Namhong held talks with His Excellency the Thai foreign minister during which the comrade reaffirmed the State of Cambodia's stance.

1. Agreement on the framework document of the UN Security Council. In this case, the SNC, which has already been set up, should carry on its work.

2. The return of the genocidal Pol Pot group is an issue vital to the Cambodian people. Therefore, concrete measures should be taken to absolutely prevent this group's return. The group threatens to return through two forms. One, through military means by striving to launch large-scale attacks using tanks and artillery; and two, through a political solution, this group will return to Cambodia through Sihanouk and behind Sihanouk. Therefore, this group has made preparations for protracted fighting and for elections. Preventing the genocidal regime's return is in accordance with international conventions which Cambodia has signed concerning the prevention and punishment of genocidal murderers in 1948.

3. The State of Cambodia agrees to the gathering of troops on the spot and of weapons under UN supervision but the State of Cambodia cannot accept the dissolution and disarming of the armed forces because one cannot do the same with the other side, including the genocidal Pol Pot group.

4. Accepting the framework document is a major concession of the State of Cambodia because the key issue is the respect for the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people through elections.

5. The State of Cambodia is ready to abide by the result of UN-supervised elections. For 12 years, the other side has not seized any territory. However, we agree to let it come to Phnom Penh with the aim of ending the civil war and reconciling the nation. But the other side is too greedy. It wants to win what it cannot win on the military battlefield at the negotiating table.

5. There should be a voluntary cease-fire to maintain durable peace.

6. All Cambodian parties should stop accepting military aid and all countries should also stop providing military aid to Cambodian parties.

7. On the issue of refugees, the majority of whom live in camps under the other side's control. We declare that we will accept these refugees with or without a political solution. However, in order to allow refugees to choose without pressure, there should be neutral camps, or if possible, the neutralization of these camps should be carried out.

After a cordial meal with His Excellency the Thai prime minister, Comrade Hor Namhong met and answered reporters' questions in which the Comrade Foreign Minister reaffirmed support and welcome for His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan's initiative on the establishment of

a working group for restoring Cambodia. The comrade further stressed that the working group should meet quickly and that the State of Cambodia is ready to take part anywhere anytime.

[Words indistinct] the genocidal Pol Pot regime and the other Cambodian side have intensified military attacks inside Cambodia while the international community is working to promote a peaceful solution.

Support for Chatchai Rebuilding Proposal

BK1602060691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0434 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Feb. 16—Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Nambong warmly welcomed Friday, Prime Minister Chatchai's initiative to rebuild the country as a prelude to a political solution, reports AFP.

Describing the move as "a most positive step to create an environment for trust" in war-torn Cambodia, Mr. Hor Nambong told reporters after his two-hour meeting with Mr. Chatchai that the Phnom Penh government welcomes and fully supports the proposal.

Thai government spokesman Pridiyathon Thewakun said: "We are confident that the group could be set up soon because the opposing factions agreed on principle that the plan will benefit their people. The rest would not be too difficult".

Mr. Chatchai on Monday proposed that the four warring Cambodian factions set up a group to help renovate the country's existing rail, road, airport and electricity system without waiting for a peace settlement.

"The plan will benefit all Cambodians regardless of which side they belong to. We believe that the working group should start soon—the sooner the better", Mr. Hor Nambong said. He also urged the Cambodian opposition group to accept the proposal.

Mr. Chatchai met separately this week with Cambodian faction leaders as part of diplomatic maneuver to persuade the factions to meet again in Jakarta as the Supreme National Council in which all the factions agreed.

The SNC, comprising two delegates from each faction of the coalition and six from Phnom Penh, was formed under a UN peace plan in September to represent Cambodian sovereignty.

Hor Nambong Interview on Talks

BK1603051291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Feb 91

[SPK interview with Foreign Minister Hor Nambong after his "working visit to the Kingdom of Thailand for talks with Thai Prime Minister and Foreign Minister", date not given—read by unidentified announcers]

[Text] [SPK] In this visit, the comrade minister held talks with His Excellency General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. Please tell us about the result of these talks.

[Hor Nambong] As communications networks in Cambodia have been seriously damaged by the destruction of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan, the Thai prime minister, put forward an initiative to set up a working group of the Supreme National Council [SNC] comprising the two Cambodian sides with the aim of quickly starting the repair of roads, railroad, and airfields. On behalf of our government, I have welcomed and fully supported this initiative.

His Excellency Chatchai also specified that this working group is not involved in political affairs. Thailand is ready to assist Cambodia in developing the national economy and exploiting the coastal area and that the two countries's economic and trade relations should be quickly expanded to benefit the two peoples. I also informed His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan about the situation in Cambodia, particularly about the intensified military offensives by the Pol Pot clique and its allies. This further clearly shows that the Pol Pot group remains the source of threat for the return of the genocidal regime through military means along with the political one which the tripartite alliance is setting up through various tricks and maneuvers.

Finally, His Excellency the prime minister said some countries are ready and that some international organizations already have budgets for restoring Cambodia. Therefore, these funds should be used quickly.

[SPK] In this working trip, the comrade minister also held talks with His Excellency Thai Foreign Minister Arthit Urairat. What is the outcome of this meeting?

[Hor Nambong] In the working meeting with His Excellency the Thai foreign minister, I informed him and his colleagues about our stance and goodwill on the peace process to solve the Cambodian problem politically. Furthermore, I proposed that the SNC's working group—initiated by His Excellency Prime Minister Chatchai—be set up quickly, the sooner the better, because this working group would increase mutual understanding and trust among Cambodian parties for the reason that they are working for national interests. Therefore, whether one wants it or not, the establishment of this working committee will shed good influence and advance a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem. The setting up of the working group to restore Cambodia, as I mentioned earlier, is in the interest of the entire Cambodian people and nation and not of any one party. This would also be preparations to facilitate the task of the UN machinery in case there is a political solution.

At the meeting with His Excellency the foreign minister, I also stressed the State of Cambodia's goodwill on a voluntary cease-fire which the State of Cambodia has

already proposed many times to the other Cambodian side. I also stressed that the restoration of the country is inseparable from a cease-fire. Furthermore, I talked about the voluntary repatriation of Cambodian refugees by stressing that neutral camps should be set up or that the neutralization of existing camps should be undertaken in order to allow Cambodian refugees freedom of choice without pressure from the groups of Pol Pot, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], which are currently administering these camps.

[SPK] What are the reactions from the other Cambodian side on this initiative on the working group?

[Hor Namhong] Various sources say that the groups of Samdech Sihanouk and Son Sann have agreed to this while the Democratic Kampuchea side has imposed conditions on its agreement. However, on 14 February, the tripartite alliance issued a press communique saying that the restoration program and the mandate of the UN Transitional Authority can only be implemented within the framework of a comprehensive political solution based on the framework of the 28 August 1990 document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement of the five countries. Thus, it can be seen that these parties—namely those of Sihanouk and Son Sann—are under the Pol Pot group's influence because these groups have already agreed and then turned to imposing conditions like the Pol Pot group.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the other Cambodian side to respond positively to the appropriate initiative of His Excellency Prime Minister Chatichai Chunhawan because the restoration of Cambodia is certainly in the interest of the entire Cambodian nation and people.

Reportage on Developing Relations With Thailand

BK1602081791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Station editorial: "The Development of Cambodian-Thai Friendship Relations"]

[Text] The State of Cambodia [SOC] and the Kingdom of Thailand are neighboring countries with over 800 km of common land border, hundreds of kilometers of water border, and the Dangrek mountain range. They also have shared identical traditions, customs, culture, and arts. The two nations, based on their geographical and cultural similarity, have established relations of solidarity and friendship and coexisted peacefully for a long time. During its reign of nearly four years, however, the genocidal Pol Pot regime totally severed the time-honored friendship relations and provoked conflict along the common border to serve the expansionist, hegemonic policy of foreign countries.

Since the liberation on 7 January 1979, the SOC, implementing a foreign policy of neutrality, nonalignment, and peaceful coexistence, has expressed its desire to restore and reestablish relations with all states, in particular with the Kingdom of Thailand, regardless of their political leanings on the basis of the principle of mutual respects, nonintervention in other states' internal affairs, equality, and reciprocal interests. But it is regrettable that this intention has been rejected by the Thai extreme rightist circle.

For the sake of the two countries' interests, the SOC has repeatedly asked the Kingdom of Thailand to turn the Cambodian-Thai border into a boundary of peace and friendship, meaning that the two sides withdraw their forces from the borderline to avoid armed conflict.

Over the past nearly 12 years, although Cambodia and Thailand have not yet officially established diplomatic relations, officials from the two countries have nevertheless conducted many rounds of unofficial and private talks. Significantly, since His Excellency Chatichai Chunhawan took over the helm of the Thai Government and advocated changing Indochina from a battlefield to a marketplace, relations between the two countries have improved constantly. In the communications field, we have opened a border pass at O Chreou and began aerial links between the two countries—Thailand's Bangkok Airways has so far increased its activity to five flights per week to Cambodia. In the field of culture, the Royal Thai Government has sent an artistic group and movie stars to give two performances in Cambodia at the SOC's national festivities. On the trade issue, Thai Trade Minister Amaret Sila, on 22 January disclosed that the Thai cabinet had authorized his ministry to open a trade office in Phnom Penh to serve as a liaison office. The Thai prime minister has reaffirmed that, no matter what, Thailand will expand trade relations with Cambodia, which is rich in natural resources. Besides, Thailand is a key state among other important countries involved in the protracted war in Cambodia.

Implementing a national reconciliation policy, the SOC leadership, in particular the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers, has paid a number of visits to the Kingdom of Thailand to discuss ways of seeking a solution for the Cambodian problem. And the Thai cabinet has assigned its ministers, especially the prime minister's advisers, to meet and exchange views on the Cambodian problem with Cambodian delegations during their stopover in Thailand en route to or from attending talks on the Cambodian problem.

Lately, the Kingdom of Thailand has been a key player among the other regional states in the Cambodian peace process. It arranged a round of talks between Comrade Hun Sen and Sihanouk and assisted with an open heart in organizing the first meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] at the former Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok. Furthermore, Thailand has coordinated with other countries in organizing meetings among the contending Cambodian parties with the participation of other countries concerned. Thailand is a leading country.

which has taken an initiative in calling on the Cambodian parties to agree on the implementation of a ceasefire. At present, the Kingdom of Thailand is assigned by the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia to holding discussions with all the Cambodian parties with a view toward reconvening the SNC session.

The Cambodian people are very hopeful that during his visit to Thailand at the invitation of His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan, SOC Foreign Minister Comrade Hor Namhong will not only discuss the concrete issue of the Cambodian settlement, but he will hold talks on bilateral relations between the two countries and peoples as well.

May the relations of solidarity and friendship between our two states and peoples further develop for the cause of safeguarding peace and friendship relations in the region and the entire world.

Japanese Delegation Discusses Political Solution

BK1903063691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 February at the National Assembly building, Comrade Chea Sim, member of the the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly and of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, granted an audience to a Japanese Foreign Ministry delegation led by Yukio Imgawa, minister attached to the Japanese Embassy in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Speaking on that occasion, Comrade Chairman Chea Sim warmly welcomed the Japanese Foreign Ministry delegation on its second visit to the State of Cambodia and expressed profound thanks to the Japanese Government for its efforts to help speed up a political solution to the Cambodian problem. Comrade Chea Sim also spoke on the all-round firm development made in the past 12 years by the State of Cambodia, noting that this development was attributable to the assistance given by the progressive countries and international organizations across the world.

Comrade Chairman Chea Sim also informed the guests that the Government of the State of Cambodia welcomed the UN role in the Cambodian solution, but such a role must respect the UN Charter and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

Comrade Chairman Chea Sim added that the government of the State of Cambodia was always ready to meet anywhere and at any time with the other Cambodian groups so as to quickly seek peace for the Cambodian people.

In his reply, Imagawa highly valued the State of Cambodia Government's good will in seeking a political solution for the Cambodian problem. He also thanked Comrade Chairman Chea Sim for providing him with significant information. He also informed Comrade Chairman Chea Sim that his visit was to inspect the real situation in the State of Cambodia so as to assist the Cambodian people and [words indistinct] political solution.

Hor Namhong on Lao Foreign Minister's Birthday

BK1502095091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0416 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 15—Foreign Minister Hor Namhong has sent warmest greetings to his Lao counterpart Phoun Siphaseut on his 71st birthday.

The message wished the Lao foreign minister the best of health and more successes in his highly responsible task.

Tie Banh Greets SRV Counterpart on New Year

BK1602083091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] On the occasion of the traditional new year of the Vietnamese people, Comrade General Tie Banh, State of Cambodia's defense minister, sent a greeting to Comrade General Le Duc Anh, SRV defense minister. The message says in essence:

On behalf of the Ministry of National Defense leadership and cadres, combatants, and personnel of the entire Cambodian People's Army, and in my own name, I would like to wish the comrade minister and family good health, energy, and success in the tasks ahead. Through the comrade, I would also like to convey best wishes to the leadership, cadres, combatants, and personnel of the fraternal Vietnamese army on the new year. May they enjoy good health, energy, and new and greater successes in all the tasks assigned by the party and people. May the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two people and armies get stronger and last forever.

On the same occasion, Comrade Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun, deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Cambodian People's Army, also sent a message to Comrade Gen. Doan Khue, Vietnamese deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Vietnamese army.

UN Agency Pledges To Assist Training Program

BK1602055891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0444 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Feb. 16—The representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to Cambodia pledged to do his utmost to collect funds for technical operation and training of Cambodian cadres in order to make them qualified to the relative works on how to prepare and plan for external aid.

The U.N.D.P representative was quoted as saying in a four-day seminar on "The Orientation for the International Aid Community", which was closed in Phnom Penh on Feb. 14. Foreign experts who presided over the

discussion of the seminar unanimously reached a conclusion, in which, in the future Cambodia would enter a stage where it would receive development-aid organized and granted bilaterally by donor countries, and on the other hand multilaterally by the U.N. agencies, including the UNDP which would play the most important role. "This situation demands Cambodia to make preparative details for the development plan by clearly stipulating the priority given to the national strategy, the flexibility of the plan at the time of the aid influx", said the conclusion demanding Cambodia to examine, the data, statistics and other informations for the development plan.

Foreign experts also pointed to the necessity of training with the cooperation of foreign specialists and Cambodian cadres in the field of elaboration of the development plan ahead of a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

World Food Aid for Refugees in Battambang Noted

BK1702133191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] In early February, the World Food Program [WFP] organization provided 140 tonnes of rice and cooperated with the province to distribute it to over 8,000 families of war refugees in various districts and the provincial seat in Battambang Province.

At various aid distribution centers, our war refugees profoundly acknowledged the efforts of the State of Cambodia's party and government and various humanitarian organizations, which in the past as in the present, have always paid attention to the people affected by hardship. WFP had once provided 226 tonnes of rice to war refugees in Battambang Province.

PRACHEACHON Accuses Resistance of Maneuvering

BK1702083191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Feb 91

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "An Ostrich Cannot Bury Its Head in the Sand"]

[Text] Sihanouk, who has ceaselessly and vociferously boasted that he is a 100 percent patriot with 100 percent pity for the people and is eager for peace, has recently sent a message calling on and ordering Khieu Samphan, Ranariddh, and Ieng Mouly—members of the Supreme National Council [SNC]—to continue intensifying military operations against the State of Cambodia [SOC]. While the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia—France and Indonesia [words indistinct] the disagreement among the contending Cambodian parties and the implementation of a cease-fire, Sihanouk has irresponsibly announced the adoption of the muscle-building policy. This clearly shows that his group never wants to put an end to the Cambodian conflict with a peaceful solution, and this is also shows contempt for the efforts displayed by the Paris conference cochairmen and Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who want to have an order between the opposing Cambodian parties prior to reconvening an early meeting of the Paris conference's coordinating committee.

It is very easy to see who wants peace and who wants to prolong the war at this point in time. Have Sihanouk and his tripartite coalition already honored what they have promised?

In fact, what must be exposed is that while Sihanouk and the tripartite coalition made known their support for the UN peace plan for Cambodia, and in particular while Sihanouk's son, Ranariddh, pledged in a recent statement to halt the military operations and to settle the Cambodian problem through political means, they secretly received military aid from foreign countries and stepped up adventurous armed activities as well. This has caused the innocent Cambodian people to infinitely suffer loss of lives and property as well as separation.

Everyone knows that Sihanouk and the tripartite coalition have been manipulating for the purpose of deposing the SOC and replacing it with the genocidal Pol Pot regime. And evidently, as they cannot oust the SOC at the negotiating table—through forcing us to totally accept the UN peace plan, remaining issues which need more detailed discussion within the framework of the SNC, and internal and international aspects of the Cambodian problem which should be subjected to further debate within the framework of the Paris international conference with the view of respecting the Cambodian people's independence, sovereignty, and rights to self-determination and to safeguarding the UN Charter—they have carried out their adventurous activities to topple the SOC through military means. However, they have never accepted the responsibility for their provocative actions, instead they have maneuvered to put the blame on the SOC.

With whatever settlement, the Cambodian people need peace. But it should be an unequivocally guaranteed genuine peace without the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

We will continue to do our utmost in order to arrive at an early peaceful political solution for the Cambodian problem. Nevertheless, we are determined to crush all manner of machinations and ruses to dismantle our state authority via political, military, or diplomatic means with the aim of returning the genocidal Pol Pot regime to power.

NAIC's 15th Brigade Headquarters Captured

BK1802133191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Po Pok and Sambuor are remote villages in Kompong Thom Province located at the jungle covered border adjoining Siem Reap-Oddar

Meanchey and Preah Vihear Provinces. They are also the areas of vital importance for the MOULINAKA [National Liberation Movement of Cambodia, now integrated into the National Army of Independent Cambodia. NAIC], whose commander in chief is Ranariddh, to build its secret camps and positions as strategic bridgeheads for the purpose of imperiling the security of the people in Stoung District and in other remote areas. However, whatever their poisonous maneuvers are, the enemies cannot rid themselves of the defeat.

On 26-27 January, our effective joint forces completely overran the major positions of the MOULINAKA's 15th brigade at Sambuor and Po Pok villages. We routed and forced their troops to beat a hasty retreat and flee into the jungle, and we completely captured the 15th Brigade's headquarters located in the (O Choam Soang) camp.

It was in these camps that a number of routed MOULINAKA forces regrouped. And it was from there that in the past the enemies had boasted that, after the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, they would have blown the Phnom Penh government up. But in fact, these camps were only their lairs from which they carried out their activities of plundering and massacring our people. By all means, those who were blown up were actually the groups in hiding in this jungle.

As a result of the operation, we killed and wounded some enemy troops, who were carried away by their comrades, and captured 53 other disguised enemy soldiers. We also seized 149 assorted firearms and a significant quantity of war materiel. [passage omitted]

Phnom Penh Reports 3-8 Feb Battle Successes

BK1502142191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] According to a report from the battlefield in Battambang Province, on 7 February the 196th Division repulsed the enemies and seized 3,315 rounds of ammunition and 790 mines.

On 8 February the 4th Division launched activities in an area 10 km north of Treng, killing 15 enemy soldiers and seizing three cannons, an AK, and three metric tons of ammunition.

On 4 February in Bavel District, the 22d Regiment of the 6th Division launched activities [words indistinct] Ampil, killing three enemy soldiers and seizing five weapons.

On the battlefield in Banteay Meanchey Province, on 3 and 4 February our armed forces killed 20 enemy soldiers and wounded 40 others.

On the battlefield in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, our armed forces launched activities in [name indistinct], killing three enemy soldiers, wounding five, destroying four enemy hideouts, capturing four enemy agents, and seizing three weapons.

Resistance Attacks Positions in Kampong Trach

BK1903014691 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Feb 91

["Special report on attack against Kompong Trach District seat and sweeping of defense networks of Chhuk District seat on Kampot battlefield"]

[Text] 1. Between 9 and 14 February, our national resistance forces attacked the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and the Vietnamese puppet-lackeys stationed in Kompong Trach District seat in Kampot Province. As a result:

A. We killed 47 Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppet-lackeys on the spot and wounded 77 others. We destroyed two machine-guns, 51 AK's, 151 SKS guns, 30 SK guns, 79 AR-15's, two drum-magazine machine guns, 18 B-40's and B- 41's, two 60-mm mortars, a 12.8-mm machine gun, 15 Santos rifles, two 80-mm mortars, 35 military barracks, two ammunition depots containing thousands of metric tons of ammunition, four rice and paddy warehouses, 517 barrels of gasoline and diesel oil, two salt warehouses, two rice husking machines, three saws, three power generators, eight waterpumps, two tractors, two trucks, two medicine storehouses, 225 bicycles, 40 motorcycles, a C-46 field radio, and a quantity of war materiel.

B. We seized 217 assorted guns, including five 60-mm mortars, two 80-mm mortars, 18 12.8-mm machine guns and B-41's, 58 AK's, 47 SKS guns, 20 SK guns, 24 AR-15's, five light machine guns, four pistols, eight drum-magazine machine guns, two santos rifles, and a quantity of ammunition and war materiel.

C. We liberated four communes—namely Dang Tong, Sre Chea, Damnak Kantuot, and Kompong Prek—and 27 villages, namely Trapeang Romeas, Trapeang Monoan, Thom, Trapeang Veng, (Chrak Kes), and Prey Pok in Dang Tong Commune; Sophie, Prek Pi, (Prean Tum), (Trapeang Chraniang), (Kus), O Russei, and Trapeang Kda in Sre Chea Commune; Prek Kes, O Rulous, Popun, (Khlem Damrei), Damnak Kantuot, Trapeang Chrey, Angkor Chey Ti Muoy, and Angkor Chey Ti Pi in Damnak Kantuot Commune; O Chrouang, Phnum Ta Lei, (Chong Sdau), (Den Cha), Kompong Trach Ti Muoy, and Kompong Trach Ti Pi in Kompong Trach Commune. We freed 65 village administrators and 105 inhabitants jailed by the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets.

2. At 0600 on 15 February, our national resistance forces launched a sweeping operation against five positions of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppet-lackeys defending Chhuk District seat from the north and the west, that is at Trapeang Veay, Trapeang Chres, Chamka Svay, Phum Prich adjacent to Route 3, and Dei Kraham adjacent to Chhuk marketplace in the west. Following 20 minutes of fighting, we totally liberated these positions. We killed

15 Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppet-lackeys on the spot, wounded 30, and captured three others. We destroyed 15 assorted guns and seized 25 assorted guns and a quantity of war materiel. We liberated five villages, namely Trapeang Chres, Veay, Dei Kraham, Prich, and Chhuk.

Resistance Shelling Creates 'Chaotic Situation'

BK1602030691 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 15 Feb 91

["Special Report on Attack Against Battambang Town"]

[Text] On 12 February, our national resistance forces fired 80 artillery shells on the heart of Battambang Town—40 shells on the 5th Military Region headquarters of the Vietnamese enemies and the traitorous puppets and 40 others on the enemy offices—setting fire to many places. The Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the traitorous puppets in the town are currently in an extremely chaotic situation.

Resistance Liberates Commune in Kompong Thom

BK1702010591 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] On 10 February, our national resistance forces attacked and completely liberated a Vietnamese-puppet battalion position at Kdei Cha monastery and the office building of Koam Sok commune in Kompong Svay District on Kompong Thom battlefield. We killed seven enemy soldiers, including a battalion commander, and wounded 15 others. We destroyed 10 guns—two B-40 rocket launchers, two B-41 rocket launchers, an M-79 grenade launcher, a RPD machine gun, a light machine gun, and three AK's—a communal office building, three barracks, and some war materiel, and seized a B-40 rocket launcher, two B-41 rocket launchers, two AK's, 15 hand grenades, 68 B-40 rockets, three B-41 rockets, and some war materiel. And we liberated a commune and four villages—Cheung Chas, Thnoat, Kompong Svay, and Ang Chum—and freed 25 local officials and 10 Cambodian soldiers.

Indonesia

Alatas Welcomes Iraq's Offer To Leave Kuwait

BK1602080291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0701 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 16 (ODANA-ANTARA)—Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas believes that the willingness of Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait means that a "door" for peaceful solution is not closed any longer.

Minister Alatas gave his comment here Saturday upon the press' questions concerning Iraq's offer to consider withdrawing from Kuwait, which was announced Friday by the Iraqi authorities, after a month long war.

"In my opinion, the door which previously was closed tightly, is now open a little and this could lead to solution to the war though negotiations. The door should not be let closed again," Minister Alatas said after signing an agreement on the investment enhancement and protection between the Indonesian and South Korean Governments.

Minister Alatas, stating he has not received a text of the Iraqi offer to withdraw from Kuwait, said the statement must be studied thoroughly.

"I consider this a step forward as revealed in the statement since for the first time Iraq announced its readiness to abide by and implement the U.N. Resolution No. 660 on the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," he stated.

"However, we need to study the text carefully since Iraq has attached a string of conditions to it," he further said.

"I would like also to stress to you, the press, here that a diplomacy and relations between countries are not going on through statements or the press," he added.

He believes that there are various contacts among the governments to encourage a peaceful solution. "Hopefully, this is indeed going on, but I don't know what is really happening," he said.

Commenting on hundreds of civilians killed during the war, he said the Indonesian Government deeply regrets it.

He is also of the opinion that this is the right time for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to encourage its efforts initiated at a meeting recently in Yugoslavia, to find a peaceful solution.

"I am still waiting whether there are further developments on the tasks entrusted to Yugoslavia as the current chairman of the Non- Aligned Movement, to explore ways in connection with the NAM plan to send a peace mission to countries involved in the Gulf war," Alatas said.

Muslims Warn of Joining Iraq if Israel Retaliates

BK1802141491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 18 (AFP)—Indonesian volunteers would join Iraqi troops if Israel retaliates against Baghdad, the Nadlatul Ulama (N.U.), Indonesia's leading Moslem group, warned Monday.

"If Israel sends any troops to any portion of Iraq, there will be no way for us to prevent the formation of volunteer groups to go to Iraq, regardless of what the (Indonesian) government may say," N.U. President Abdurahman Wahid said.

"We don't need long preparation because people will go at their own expense," he said, urging the government to "be more active in seeking an end to the war."

Jakarta has remained neutral since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, backing neither the U.S.-led coalition forces, a source of Indonesian aid, nor Iraq, with which it has always had strong ties.

While insisting that "the N.U. has basically taken the position of the government ... Because we have to think of Western aid," Mr. Abdurahman Wahid said he faced "strong demand from the community" for a condemnation of the U.S.-led air strikes against Iraq.

He accused the government of being too passive but stuck close to the government's line in saying any resolution of the war must include Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the settlement of the Palestinian question.

The N.U., which counts 10 million to 20 million supporters, runs 21,000 learning institutions and about 6,000 Koran schools. It is most powerful in rural Indonesia, the world's most populous Islamic nation with about 160 million Moslems.

Thai Foreign Minister Athit Continues Visit

Says Cambodian Factions Agree to Talks

BK1802210291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 18 (AFP)—Cambodian warring factions have agreed to hold fresh talks of the Supreme National Council (SNC) but Indonesia, the likely host of the meeting, said Monday it wanted to move with caution.

Visiting Thai Foreign Minister Athit Urairat told reporters after meeting his Indonesian counterpart, Ali Alatas, that leaders of the four Cambodian factions had given assurances at separate meetings in Bangkok last week that they "wholeheartedly" supported the plan to hold a second meeting of the SNC.

"They will come to join the SNC meeting," Mr. Athit said after the talks between Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and the Cambodian leaders.

Asked of prospects that the meeting of the interim Cambodian body could reach a compromise, he said: "The result of this will have to wait until the meeting. I cannot predict at the moment."

Mr. Alatas, who co-chairs the Paris International Conference on Cambodia with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, however declined to say when the meeting would take place.

"We want to be careful in our planning and we want to make further progress," he said, adding that he would like to meet with all the SNC members first before calling for the meeting.

The SNC, set up in September under a UN plan for a comprehensive peace settlement in Cambodia, comprises 12 members: two each from the three Cambodian resistance factions and six from the Hanoi- backed government in Phnom Penh.

Its first meeting, in Bangkok in October, broke down on the question of the leadership of the council, which under the UN plan is to represent Cambodian sovereignty in the peace process.

Mr. Athit, who was on a 24-hour visit, also briefed Indonesian officials on Mr. Chatchai's plan to start the process of rehabilitating Cambodia's economic infrastructure as a prelude to a political solution.

"We welcome (the plan) as something that would facilitate the implementation of the overall settlement and as something that would proceed within the context of the (UN peace) plan, and not outside it," Mr. Alatas said.

Mr. Athit said that under the Chatchai plan, a working group comprising the four Cambodian factions would be set up only after the SNC meeting.

Earlier, after meeting with President Suharto, Mr. Athit said the rehabilitation plan, also put forward to the Cambodian leaders last week, should be seen "as one step to encourage (the Cambodians) to solve their political problem."

Meets With Suharto, Alatas

BK1802160391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Excerpt] There have been several meetings between the Thai and Indonesian foreign ministers over the past two days. The Thai foreign minister has also met with two Indonesian Economic Ministry officials. In any case, the topic most important to the Thai people is the one concerning the Cambodian peace settlement. As for the outcome of the talks between the Thai and Indonesian ministers, Indonesia had no objection to the proposal of General Chatchai Chunhawan on setting up a working group for the economic rehabilitation of Cambodia. Also, a master plan on the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] is being drafted for completion within the month. A meeting will be held as a result.

Foreign Minister Athit Urairat called on President Suharto late this morning. He relayed to President Suharto a message from General Chatchai Chunhawan asking for support for his initiative on setting up a working group for the economic rehabilitation of Cambodia, a plan that has already received the approval of the four Cambodian factions.

This afternoon, Athit Urairat had a second round of talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. The meeting lasted for one and a half hours and centered around the question of a Cambodian settlement. Minister Ali Alatas was interviewed after the talks. He said

that Thailand's proposal on the economic rehabilitation of Cambodia has been accepted by the four Cambodian factions, but did not make it clear whether he also supported the idea. Concerning the attitude of the Khmer Rouge, which reportedly was still reluctant about the economic rehabilitation of Cambodia since the problem of a cease-fire and political settlement are yet to be solved, Ali Alatas said that the issue will have to be discussed among the SNC members. They must reach an agreement about when to implement the rehabilitation plan and under what framework. Concerning the SNC meeting, Alatas said that there are several details that the members will have to seek clarification on for their deliberations during the meeting. There will be a drafting of matters to be included for discussion during the meeting. The cochairmen, that means Indonesia and France, will discuss the draft and sound out reactions from the four Cambodian factions in order to avoid problems arising when the meeting is underway.

During the visit, the Thai and Indonesian foreign ministers also exchanged views on the forthcoming seminar of the Asia Society of New York to be attended by ASEAN leaders. The seminar is scheduled for 3-5 March. Prime Minister Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan will attend the seminar, but Mrs. Corazon Aquino, president of the Philippines, will not attend the meeting due to a fear that her presence at a meeting with ASEAN leaders would lead to domestic pressure in her country concerning the U.S. bases issue. Nevertheless, leaders from all ASEAN countries will attend the meeting, considered to be a summit. And on this, Ali Alatas concurred that it can be considered a summit. [passage omitted]

Laos

Daily Says Baghdad Shelter Bombing 'Unacceptable'

BK1602045991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Undated PASASON article: "Unacceptable Deed"]

[Text] Foreign reports said that on Wednesday, war planes of the United States and its allies fighting against Iraq dropped bombs on an Iraqi air raid shelter in a suburb of Baghdad. It was estimated that some 700 Iraqi people were killed in the raids, mostly old people, women, and children. Many Western experts who paid on-the-spot visits to the bombed out shelter took pictures of the tragic deaths of the victims of the air raids.

In his message to the UN secretary general, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that this was a criminal act. Nonetheless, U.S. officials keep insisting that the shelter was an Iraqi military command center in which the people were (?deliberately) sheltered. However, many Western correspondents who visited the site said that the shelter was actually a civilian air raid shelter without any link to military purposes.

We, the Lao people, who were faced with war and fought against U.S. air power for many years, understand the nature of this incident very well. In the initial stage, U.S. bombings were apparently conducted against limited Lao targets. Subsequently, such bombings became indiscriminate. Such targets as farmers working in ricefields or even small thatch-roofed shacks located in jungles and on mountains eventually became targets of the bombings and strafings of the air pirates.

It is certain that if the Gulf war drags on, more and more Iraqis will be killed in this manner. The Lao people together with all peace-loving people throughout the world are gravely concerned over the Gulf war which has increasingly become a serious threat to world peace and will bring more devastating disasters to mankind and the world's economy. Now is the time that the warring parties must exercise a sense of restraint and try to end the war through negotiation on the basis of equality and fairness for the sake of the interests and peace of all nations. Negotiation for a peaceful settlement of any problem is never too late.

Goods To Be Bartered for Soviet Oil in 1991

BK1602101291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] According to the committee in charge of the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism, in 1991 the Ministry of Trade and Tourism is permitting the Lao Fuel Company to import 100,000 metric tons of fuel oil from the Soviet Union. As in previous years, the ministry gives permission to that company to be the sole agent for importing fuel oil from the Soviet Union.

In his interview with our reporter, Company Director Louo Souvalat said: In previous years the company received permission to import an exact amount of fuel oil from the Soviet Union before the beginning of each year. As for 1991, such permission from the ministry was given to us very late. That is why the implementation of the import plan has been a little bit delayed this year. In the meantime, while waiting for the permission to be granted, our company has made preparations to collect goods that will be bartered for Soviet oil as follows: 30,000 cubic meters of parquet floors, 1.3 million square meters of sawn timber, 600 metric tons of tin ore, and 32,000 metric tons of peanuts.

UNICEF Meeting on Program Strategy Ends

BK1802102291 Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 18 (KPL)—The UNICEF-Lao programme strategy meeting wound up on February 16, after two days of session.

The meeting of this level held for the first time in the country between the Lao Government and the UNICEF provided a unique opportunity for officials concerned

with women and children development to discuss ways of planning the development and overcoming problems that have affected women and children.

To help fulfill the programme for 1992-96, the UNICEF has provided close support to Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] government in seeking a solution to problems affecting the physical and mental development of women and children in Laos, and educating women to have effective skills in child rearing.

Phoun Sipaseut Greets WHO, UNICEF Envoys

BK1702072791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Dr. S.T. Han, regional director of the World Health Organization [WHO] for Asia and Pacific Region, and Daniel J. Brook, regional director of UNICEF for Southeast Asia, paid a courtesy call on Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, in Vientiane this morning.

During the meeting, Phoun Sipaseut, Dr. S.T. Han, and Daniel J. Brook discussed the success of the WHO-UNICEF consultative meeting which closed on 13 February and assistance to be provided for Laos by the two organizations, particularly in the mother and child immunization program and control of diarrhea, malaria, AIDS, respiratory infections, and other diseases.

Phoun Sipaseut thanked the two organizations for their assistance and close attention to public health work in Laos. The two regional directors and delegations arrived in Vientiane on 11 February and left for home on the afternoon of 14 February.

National Communication Conference Closes 15 Feb

BK1602112091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] The 5 day National Conference on Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction was closed this afternoon. The conference was held from 11 to 15 February. Attending the conference were [words indistinct] party Central Committee Secretariat, members of the party Central Committee, ministers, deputy ministers, representatives of ministries and organizations concerned from all provinces, and state and private enterprises nationwide. The total number of the participants amounted to 312.

During the conference, Bouathong, minister of communications, transport, post, and construction, presented a report on communications, transport, posts, and construction work during the past 15 years and the direction and role of the work from now to the year 2000. The conference also heard a speech delivered by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The conference discussed and evaluated the situation and reviewed the shortcomings in connection with the past performance.

The participants exerted much effort to study the opinion presented by the general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers as well as listened to opinions of the representatives of ministries, provinces, and enterprises. The conference unanimously endorsed the evaluation of the performance in the past 15 years and the strategy and direction for the communications, transport, posts, and construction work from now until the year 2000 and the concepts as well as projects presented by the minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction. The conference unanimously agreed with the opinion presented by the general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers, [words indistinct] and highly acclaimed participants for their clear understanding of the role of the communications, transport, posts, and construction in socioeconomic and cultural development, national defense, and maintenance of public security. Participants pledged to further enhance the past achievements and to correct all the mistakes and shortcomings [words indistinct] natural resources, make full efforts to contribute to the implementation of all resolutions concerned such as the party's and state's restructuring plan.

The conference assigned the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction to draw up the detailed plans for the implementation of the said strategy and direction and seek coordination and cooperation from all agencies concerned.

Khamtai Siphandon Speaks

BK1602131791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Feb 91

["Excerpt" of speech by Khamtai Siphandon, member of the party Central Committee Secretariat, delivered on behalf of the Council of Ministers, at the closing ceremony of the National Conference on Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction in Vientiane on 15 February—recorded]

[Text] We have discussed and consulted with one another on the major problems and unanimously agreed with the concepts and principles set forth by the general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers. What is the next step then? How are we going to correct the shortcomings so as to further develop the communications, transport, post, and construction work? [Words indistinct] I believe that the most important task for us is to try to imbue ourselves with all the concepts, principles, and objectives. The more we understand them, the better we will be able to carry out the communications, transport, post, and construction work so that it will

become the spearhead of our national economic development. Naturally, we cannot deal with all of the problems raised by the general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers at one time, and we have had only five days during this conference to study them. Therefore, I propose that the ministries and agencies concerned continue to study the opinion presented by the general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers and hence draw up the detailed regulations and instruction to facilitate the implementation. [Passage indistinct] We must pay special attention, however, to the mountainous region where many districts are inaccessible by road. We must build roads connecting all districts with big cities and provincial towns.

The second issue is the construction of roads to the sea. This is one of the strategies as mentioned earlier by Comrade Bouathong [minister of communications, transport, post, and communication]. The third issue is about the routes which are required for national defense and the roads along the western border. In addition, we must ensure convenient road communication between districts, villages, and cantons. The construction of these roads must be included in our overall plan as proposed by Comrade Bouathong. We must have the priority list for road construction prepared in accordance with our manpower and financial resources. We must decide which roads should be built each year. I am not saying that after having completed the construction of the main roads, we can turn to something else. Many sectors are involved in this work. We must follow, however, the direction of the people and state jointly carrying out the work. [words indistinct] The most important point is that we must have both manpower and a budget. Without money we cannot do anything. After having drawn up the plan, we must have money for the implementation of the plan until its completion. If we do not have a sufficient budget, the work will be on and off. Eventually, we will waste money for nothing.

Nationwide Conference on Public Security Closes

BK1802131091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] The annual nationwide conference to review public security work and adopt a new plan for further implementation, which was held under the chairmanship of Comrade Major General Asang Laoli, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and minister of the interior, closed on the afternoon of 14 February with glorious success after 10 days of work. The conference was attended by Comrade Major General Khamphon Boutdakham, member of the LPRP Central Committee and deputy minister of interior; Comrade Brigadier General Siangsom Kounlavong, member of the Party Central Committee and deputy minister of interior; and Comrade Brigadier General Bounma Mithong, deputy minister of interior, along with heads or deputy heads of various departments attached to the Interior Ministry, heads or deputy heads of the provincial or municipal commands of public security forces, and a large number of police officers from throughout the country.

In the conference the participants joined in discussing both the domestic and world situation. They also studied in depth, and have profoundly understood, the resolution of the party Central Committee on implementation of the public security work. Afterwards they unanimously endorsed intermediate and long-term action programs on the public security work. They particularly discussed and endorsed a program of action to provide security for the Fifth Congress as well as other sessions of the party.

Following the conference, each and every comrade delegate has indicated his determination to bring into full play the spirit and contents of the conference in his respective locality or unit.

Vientiane People's Council Holds Annual Session

BK1802101491 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 18 (KPL)—The Council of People's Deputies of Vientiane Municipality on February 15 opened its annual session to review the implementation of 1990's socioeconomic development plan and to discuss its plan for 1991.

The session unanimously endorsed the 1991 municipal budget and the formation of the presidium of the people's court of the municipality.

Chaired by Mayor Sisavat Keobounphan of Vientiane Municipality, this annual session wound up on February 16.

Enlarged Front Meeting of Four Provinces Opens

BK1902054391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] An enlarged meeting of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee of the four central provinces was opened on the morning of 15 February in Thakhek District, Khammouane Province. It was the third enlarged meeting of the Front Central Committee so far. Attending the meeting as guest of honor was Phoumi Vongvichit, chairman of the LFNC Central Committee.

In this enlarged front meeting, more than 200 front delegates from Khammouane Province, Vientiane Municipality, Vientiane Province, and Bolikhamsai Province, representing the multi-ethnic people of all strata in the four central provinces, took turns in delivering speeches, reviewing and assessing the achievements and situation on the consolidation of front work at various levels, and on the implementation of the four basic tasks—mobilizing the multiethnic people to take part in consolidating and building the entire national defense and public security forces; joining the local administrations in boosting agricultural production; guiding and encouraging farmers to build or repair the

irrigation system by digging irrigation canals and setting up dikes; carrying out second crop rice farming in order to improve the living conditions of the multiethnic people step by step; together boosting the educational and cultural training movements; encouraging children to study at schools; and cooperating with local administrations on erecting or repairing school and hospital buildings in accordance with the main direction in which the state and people work together and which the front committees at each level join in encouraging the construction movements to appropriately build a new life of the people in conformity with the practical conditions of each locality.

The front delegates also jointly discussed and endorsed the line and direction for activities of the LFNC Central Committee for the years to come with a view to further implementing and fulfilling the various fundamental tasks and objectives.

The enlarged ordinary meeting of the LFNC Central Committee of the four central provinces lasted 3 days. The first and second enlarged meetings were held respectively in Savabouny and Houa Phan provinces last week.

Philippines

Officials Remark on Security Situation

Abu Nidal 'Elements' Present

HK1902122091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] The authorities confirmed today that some elements of the feared Abu Nidal Palestinian terrorist group are currently in the Philippines. This is a breakaway group of the legitimate PLO of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and an ally of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Jojo Yomael has additional reports.

[Begin Yomael recording] According to Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, there is truth to the reported terrorist threat. She mentioned that in the executive session held today by her committee, the intelligence community reported outright that the terrorist threat will continue even if Iraq loses in the ongoing Gulf war. The intelligence community confirmed that the dangerous Abu Nidal group is in the country, but it has not yet embarked on any terroristic activity.

Meanwhile, for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Under Secretary Victorino Perez said that Secretary Manglapus has ordered stricter checks on Palestinians, Jordanians, and Iraqis attempting to enter the country. According to Manglapus' order, the aforementioned nationals are required to secure Philippine visas from their respective Philippine consular offices.

Red Army Members on Watchlist

BK1702120891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] Manila, Feb 17 (AFP)—The Philippines' main international airport here has increased the number of Japanese Red Army members on a special watch list after a tipoff, immigration officer Jess Bunag said Sunday.

It lifted the number of Red Army members on the list from 11 to 19 after receiving a telex from Singapore Airlines saying eight additional Red Army members, including five women, had recently visited Iraq and were travelling with false passports, Mr. Bunag said.

The 11 names already on the list were put on international airlines' watch lists after meeting with Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, he said, quoting airport General Manager Eduardo Carrascoso.

The Japanese Red Army members are listed with other pro-Iraq groups, which may launch terrorist attacks on targets in the anti-Iraq coalition, he said.

The pictures of the original 11 were posted in strategic areas throughout Manila International Airport, but the pictures of the eight others have yet to be added, Mr. Bunag said.

Suspected Pro-Iraqi Terrorists Held

HK1903083491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Manila, Feb 18 (AFP)—Philippine authorities detained two suspected pro-Iraqi terrorists just before they could leave for Japan over the weekend, the Immigration Bureau said here Monday.

The two men, both holding altered U.S. passports, were put under "custodial investigation" on the central city of Cebu on Sunday as they were about to board a Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight to Tokyo's Narita airport, bureau officials said.

Immigration commissioner Andrea Domingo described the two men in an official statement as "suspected terrorists" who might have been planning to link up with the Japanese Red Army.

Her spokeswoman, Sarah Andes, said the detained men had passports identifying them as Efren Lacson Tolentino and William Edward Teuscher.

She described the former as Filipino-looking and the latter as Arab- or Pakistani-looking, and said both had substituted photographs of themselves for the originals in the U.S. passports.

The man carrying the Teuscher passport had a Pakistani passport in his luggage stamped by immigration authorities in Baghdad, indicating that he had visited the Iraqi capital, Ms. Andes said.

Pictures seized by investigators from his luggage showed him posing with weapons at an undisclosed place, she added.

Ms. Andes said further details were unavailable, and that the two men would be brought to Manila shortly from Cebu, site of the country's second international airport.

She said the two were being questioned on suspicion of being part of a terrorist network supporting Iraq in the Gulf war.

PAL operates direct flights between Narita and Cebu, a favourite destination of Japanese tourists.

The Philippines earlier put out an alert for suspected Japanese Red Army members and other foreign terrorists who might slip into the country to attack U.S. servicemen and personnel as well as military and other facilities in sympathy with Iraq.

An Iraqi man was killed and another wounded when a bomb they were carrying exploded near a U.S.-run public library here January 19.

The Philippines expelled the Iraqi consul and two students on suspicion of involvement in terrorist plots here.

Saudi Arabia Rejects Engineering Aid Offer

HK1902100591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Feb 91

[By Dick Sanchongco of Unit No. 6]

[Text] The Saudi Arabian Government rejected the proposal of some senators to send engineers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] to the Gulf region.

Saudi Ambassador to the Philippines (Fu'ad Hasan al-Faqi) said that the Saudi Government does not need additional engineers to help the multinational forces in operation Desert Storm.

According to Ambassador (al-Faqi), the proposal of Senator Ernesto Maceda to send AFP engineers shows political support, not technical. Nonetheless, (Al-Faqi) clarified that they will accept the AFP engineers after the Gulf war for reconstruction purposes.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Arabian Government also refused the proposal of Senator Aquilino Nene Pimentel, Jr. to trade water for oil. (Al- Faqi) said that there is no water shortage in their country despite the severe oil spill effects in the Saudi Arabian seas.

Official Confirms Filipinos Join Saudi Army

HK1602050691 Manila DWIZ Radio News AM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] has confirmed that there are Filipino workers who joined the Saudi Arabian Army. At a hearing by the Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs, DFA Under Secretary Manuel Yan clarified that although these Filipinos joined the Saudi Arabian force, they are not being used for actual combat but work only as specialists. In the same hearing, Yan stated that the Philippine Government is supporting the deployment of a medical team to the Middle East, but that the dispatch of military support is not required.

Negotiations With U.S. on Bases Continue

Panels Fail To Reach Treaty

HK1602083691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Feb 91

[By Rey Arguiza]

[Text] The Philippines and the United States have again failed to reach a draft treaty for the continuous stay of the U.S. bases in the country after the two panels disagreed on the issues of compensation and duration. The Philippines' proposal for the compensation and duration issue was for $825 million each year for seven years. Its original position was five years only.

Philippine panel spokesman Raul Rabe disclosed that the U.S. counter offer was only $320 million after deducting the $160 million poured into the multilateral aid plan. However, U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrager stressed that their offer has no linkage with the MAI [Multilateral Aid Initiative].

In a joint statement read by Schrager, he said all the issues linked to the bases have been resolved. The compensation and duration issues will be discussed again and a decision regarding these will originate from Washington. The agreement may be likened to the Manglapus-Shultz agreement in 1988 which was completed in Washington. Schrager said negotiation on the two remaining issues may take place before the end of this month. Chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage left this afternoon for the United States to report to Washington the result of the failed U.S. bases negotiation. The debt condonation had also been agreed upon, said Schrager.

Aquino Statement on Talks

HK1602071291 Quezon City Radio ng Bayan in Tagalog 0630 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Statement by President Corazon C. Aquino on the Philippine-U.S. cooperation talks as read by Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna—live; in English]

[Text] The Philippine panel to the Philippine-American cooperation talks reported to me today encouraging progress in the negotiation. After a week of spirited discussions, the two panel have reached substantial

agreement on the provisions of the status of forces agreement including the thorny issue of criminal jurisdiction.

The negotiations also made significant progress on the questions related to the use of military facilities at Clark and Subic. The momentum achieved per se that the two panels to continue technical level meetings on the military facilities on Monday. [sentence as heard]

The Philippines has expressed its willingness to host American military forces for a maximum of seven years. The agreement on the continued use of military facilities in the Philippines paves the way for pursuing serious talks on the issue of the compensation package.

The United States has presented a proposed compensation package to which the Philippines has responded. The American proposal contained many helpful elements such as economic support fund, grants of surplus military and medical equipment, and assistance in implementing our bases conversion program. But we would want to (put) them within the framework of our national priorities.

The Philippine compensation framework follows from our appreciation of three factors: The character of our economic needs, the capacity of the United States to respond to its needs, and the cooperation we hope to obtain from our regional partners who perceive the American presence in the Philippines as contributing to regional peace and stability. We have stressed to the American panel our need for an immediate and sizeable capital inclusion to shore up our international reserves, stabilize our currency, improve the investment climate, to move employment and accelerate economic growth. But, we also realize the budgetary constraints on the United States. We are seeking from the United States, however, a regular and predictable amount granted without the burden of conditionalities.

A guaranteed annual cash flow will permit us to float a bond issue if we hope our regional partners will support as a concrete manifestation of the principle of burden sharing.

While many details remain to be worked out, I am confident that with goodwill on both sides, we will be able to produce an agreement that realistically addresses the needs of both the Philippines and the United States and enhances regional partnership.

Laurel, Others React to Extension Plan

HK1802040891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel yesterday expressed approval of President Aquino's announcement over the retention of the U.S. military bases in the country, after the expiration of the agreement of them this September, at an increased rental.

"I am glad the President has adopted a seven-year phase out formula for the U.S. bases, to end in 1998, the centennial of our Republic," Laurel said.

"The seven-year phaseout period must, however, be accompanied by a firm U.S. commitment to modernize our Armed Forces, particularly our Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. We have 7,000 islands to protect, and we must now realize that real sovereignty should not depend on the presence or withdrawal of any foreign power form the Philippines but upon our own ability to defend ourselves. Real sovereignty requires that we ultimately assume the basic responsibility for our own security," Laurel said.

Meanwhile, organized labor reacted sharply to the extension of bases' stay.

Crispin Beltran, chairman of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement] said, "We have said along that any and all agreements that would provide for the stay of the bases beyond September 1991 is unacceptable."

"We oppose the new bases agreement as we deem the presence of the bases in the country not only as an infringement on national sovereignty but that these bases are in fact sources of the ills and crises the country is facing," Beltran added.

Sen. Rene Saguisag (LP) [Liberal Party], on the other hand, said it was premature to speak of a new agreement because the two sides remain far apart on compensation.

"Now, if it is true that the executive will agree to a seven-year extension, then as far as I am concerned, the agreement is dead in the water," Saguisag continued. "This will only continue to retard our maturation in the community of nations."

Last Saturday, the Philippines announced that it wanted $825 million a year for seven years in rental for the extended stay of the U.S. bases, but the U.S. offered $520 million yearly, including $200 million as part of a multilateral aid program for the country and development assistance.

Senate President Reacts to Extension

HA1802123991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0000 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Interview with Senate President Jovito Salonga at the Senate by anchorperson Joe Taruc in the studio on 18 February; introduced by Cesar Chavez of Unit No. 9 at the Senate—italicized passage in English]

[Text] [Cesar Chavez] Here is Senate President Jovito Salonga with his reaction on his position regarding the seven-year extension of the U.S. military bases agreement. Joe, here is Senate President Jovito Salonga.

[Joe Taruc] Mr. Senate President, good afternoon. Hello, sir, good afternoon.

[Jovito Salonga] Good afternoon, Joe.

[Taruc] Can you please explain to our listeners your position or stand regarding these developments on the military bases issues?

[Saionga] You know, I just arrived yesterday from the United States. When I saw the newspapers, they had different accounts on the matter, but they seem to be unified in reporting the executive department's statement that we are ready to enter into a seven-year extension agreement with the United States. In my opinion, it is not favorable to say that we are ready to give a seven-year extension when we have not even agreed on how much the Americans are going to pay for every year of the extension.

I have another question. It seems that based on the actions of both panels, this cold war has not yet ended. And so the Filipinos and the Americans have to invent another enemy. Before, the traditional justification was a threat from the Soviet Union and China. But these two countries are now the collaborators of the Americans, so who are our enemies now?

Now, here is Senator Nene Pimental's statement when he arrived—which I read in the United States—that if we do not agree to an extension, we cannot gain any assistance from the Americans. I do not know if what Nene said is true. No Philippine Assistance Program, no economic support, no military support. As if the only thing important for the Americans are the military bases. Is it not important too that we have obtained democracy and freedoms in the Philippines? How can they give so much to those countries in the Middle East when there are no military bases there? Why is it with us, if we do not allow the military bases to stay, it seems we cannot expect anything from them? We should clarify this. Is the only thing important to the Americans the military bases? Are we their comrades or not?

[Taruc] Mr. Senate President, for the benefit of our audience, can you please clarify if this agreement between the United States and the Philippines should be ratified by the Senate before it can be effected?

[Saionga] Under the new Constitution, it should be submitted to the Senate for ratification. It cannot be effected without the ratification of the Philippine Senate.

[Taruc] Okay, regarding this, if we remember correctly, the majority of the Senate does not favor any form of extension for the U.S. military bases?

[Saionga] Ah, there is a technical distinction on a brief phase out period for the eventual removal of the bases. It is not possible that by 16 or 17 September, the bases will just disappear like magic. This is the only thing that has to be discussed. But to talk about seven, nine, or 10 years, I think the senators can never conform.

[Taruc] More importantly, that the U.S. panel is allegedly offering a very minimal amount of compensation?

[Saionga] I do not know how much the amount is. Foremost, there should be an agreement.

[Taruc] In your U.S. trip, Mr. Senate President, did you gain any information pertaining to the military bases talks?

[Saionga] I only went there to give a talk at Queen's College, North Carolina, *and to pick up a piece of paper there*. And then I proceeded to give a talk also at the World Affairs Council in North Carolina. After that, I just returned to the Philippines. So I did not meet any politicians; I did not see any senators or congressmen regarding this matter.

[Taruc] Do you not have plans of calling on members or leader of the Philippine panel to the Senate for questioning?

[Saionga] We will surely call on—I will invite, rather—ex-Senator, now Secretary Manglapus, to brief the senators, to clarify on the conflicting accounts in the media, and to answer many questions from the senators. And we will be able to talk again as soon as this takes place.

Officials Remark on Talks

HK1802135191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Consolidated reports by Cesar Chavez]

[Text] Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus disclosed today that the Philippines will accept any cash compensation from the United States in exchange for the retention of the U.S. military bases in the country without any condition. He announced to the media that the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. Cooperation Talk has already ended, except for technical aspects. Further discussion on the matter, he added, will be continued in Washington. Meanwhile, Senator Nene Pimentel insisted that the Senate will not approve any U.S. military bases extension in the country. Consequently, any referendum which may be carried out pertaining to this matter will not prosper.

In another interview with the League of Democratic Filipinos president, Senator Neptali Gonzales insisted that the Senate cannot agree to a compensation offer lower than $481 million each year by the U.S. Government in the event of an agreed phaseout or retention of the military bases. In a weekly program: Breakfast at the Manila Hotel, Gonzales said that a $400 million annual compensation counterproposal by the U.S. panel is not acceptable.

Former Senator Arturo Tolentino meanwhile opined that in recognition of Philippine sovereignty, the compensation agreement should be classified as rental. He also said that the treaty should specify the accurate rental to compel the U.S. Government to pay in accordance with the specification of the Philippine Government. He even clarified that a phaseout would mean that after seven years, the U.S. military bases should have been

removed, whereas a phasedown would mean a reduction in military facilities but continuance of stay even after seven years.

Schrager admitted that the U.S. Government would like a phasedown, rather than a phaseout. This means that America would still like to stay in our country even beyond the seven-year period.

In a related development, the senators have asked the executive department to first ensure how much the U.S. Government is willing to pay for the retention of the military bases, prior to favoring an extension agreement. Headed by Senator Jovito Salonga, the senators criticized the executive department's conformance to the seven-year extension.

[Begin Salonga recording in English, in progress] ...one is pro bases or anti-bases. I wonder whether it's in the national interest for the Philippine side to immediately agree to a seven- year extension of the bases without first finding out how much the United States is prepared to pay every year as compensation for the extension. [end recording]

Because of this, Salonga said that he, or the Senate will call on Secretary Manglapus to explain the Philippine position, particularly about the compensation and duration of the bases agreement, before he leaves for Washington, D.C.

[Begin Salonga recording in English] I will be asking Manglapus to meet with the senators before his visit to the United States so he can clarify certain conflicting accounts in the media, and so that he can answer all questions that our senators may [word indistinct] in that briefing. [end recording]

Those who are opposed to the seven-year extension are Salonga, Juan Ponce Enrile, Wigberto Tanada, Aquilino Pimentel, Rene Saguisag, Sotero Laurel, Orlando Mercado, Tito Guingona, Joseph Estrada, Victor Ziga, Santanina Rasul, and Vicente Paterno.

Those who favor the seven-year extension are Senators John Osmena and Ernesto Maceda.

Senators Suspect 'Secret Deal'

HK190204991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Italicized passage in English]

[Text] Some senators suspect that the Philippines and the United States have a secret deal regarding the U.S. bases extension. Senator Orly Mercado said this is the reason why they are summoning Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus for a briefing tomorrow.

Malacanang supports the seven-year extension of the U.S. military bases if the rent issue is settled. Here is Senator Orly Mercado's statement:

[Begin Mercado recording] We will know tomorrow. Yesterday Senate President Salonga told me that we will have a briefing tomorrow with Secretary Raul Manglapus *and we will be able to find out exactly what the score is with regard to the negotiating team* currently working on the bases agreement. [end recording]

Labor Department Lauds Phaseout

HK190205170l Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 19 Feb 91 pg 1, 5

[By Arnold E. Belleza]

[Text] A seven-year phaseout of U.S. military facilities in the country would give Government enough time to deal with the problem of displaced Filipino base workers, Labor Secretary Ruben Torres yesterday said.

"A seven-year period would give the DOLE (Department of Labor and Employment) and the Government enough time to prepare the infrastructure for these workers," Sec. Torres said.

For the estimated 82,614 Filipinos benefiting from the U.S. bases' stay, Sec. Torres said the DOLE would be putting up programs aimed at providing alternative employment and livelihood projects. The DOLE has already completed a skills inventory survey to this end, he added.

Based on figures provided by the DOLE's RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. joint labor committee, 26,676 of the 82,614 are civilian employees, 3,159 are private hires, 25,242 are domestics, 29,379 are contractual workers, and 1,317 are concessionaires.

"The conversion plans (being proposed) can also take care of some of these workers," he said, as with the "economic activity brought about by these plans ...employment will not be affected that much."

However, Atty. Benedicto Bitonio, Jr., head of the DOLE's RP-U.S. joint labor committee, was a bit more restrained in his assessment, saying the seven-year plan would work, "but only if we can develop alternative programs."

If all plans are coordinated ...and there is money," Government can pull off the conversion of the bases, Mr. Bitonio said.

This would entail the dovetailing of proposals put forth by all concerned agencies, he said, as the DOLE can only address the issue of worker displacement through the "entry points" of livelihood programs, training and employment assistance.

To underscore his point, he said proposals put forth by the Legislative-Executive Bases Council (LEBC) on the labor issue "do not directly address the needs of the workers."

The assumption that the economic activity generated by the conversion process would be enough for all workers,

said Mr Butenio, might not hold true for Filipino base workers currently holding highly technical jobs.

The LEBC's proposals have yet to be approved, he said, thus the funding component necessary to get the program off the ground is not yet there "as they have not yet started their funding projects."

Editorial on Phaseout Offer

HK180204091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Seven-year withdrawal must not be open-ended"]

[Text] President Aquino's announcement the other day that the government "has expressed willingness to hold American military forces for a maximum of seven years," provided the U.S. is able to meet its financial terms, may be viewed from disparate perspectives.

Those staunchly against any further U.S. military presence in the country will say the offer is as good as indefinite extension, since seven years from now, President Aquino will be in no position to ensure that the seven-year duration will be respected. What is to prevent a new administration from signing another bases extension seven years from now, they ask.

Those favoring an American military presence in the country will contend that seven years is too short a time to prepare fully for the conversion of the bases to civilian use, and for the Philippine military to assume responsibility for external defense, a responsibility currently assumed for the most part by U.S. forces based in the country. Indeed, they say, the national interest would be better served if the U.S. is allowed to base forces here indefinitely.

What is clear, for now, is that both the Philippine and American governments are agreed the U.S. bases cannot stay here indefinitely, but that it would be neither practical nor desirable to dismantle these facilities immediately. While the government has set seven years for the phaseout of U.S. forces from Philippine soil, American negotiators are pressing for a 10- to 12-year "phasedown."

The INQUIRER position, set out in 1988 at the start of the bases talks, is for a five-year phaseout of the bases after 1991. Our position today is that the government's seven-year phaseout offer is reasonable and in the nation's interest.

But our support for the Aquino government's position is premised on the supposition that the goal of the seven-year "grace period" is the gradual reduction and withdrawal of American military forces and facilities from Philippine territory. For this reason, the new agreement must include a provision on the specific timetable for withdrawal, with the U.S. committed to meet an annual quota on, for instance, the number of troops to be withdrawn from Philippine bases, and the facilities to be turned over for Philippine use and jurisdiction.

Near the end of the seven-year period, which comes propitiously enough in 1998, the centennial of the Philippine revolution against Spain, the number of U.S. military forces in the country, and the military facilities still under U.S. control, must be so negligible that Philippine forces and authorities can immediately move in and assume control, and thereby establish full Philippine sovereignty over the bases.

A new treaty, duly ratified by both governments, containing specific provisions for phased withdrawal over the seven-year period, would commit the U.S. and the Philippines to abide by its conditions, precluding the possibility of a different Philippine president or legislature simply signing a new document contrary to its intent.

If we have not discussed at this point the sticky issue of compensation, it is because we believe that money, while important, is not of the essence and should not be used as the benchmark of success or failure of the Philippine side in the talks. The amount the U.S. should pay the Philippines as compensation for the use of the bases should reflect the true value of the bases as real estate and strategic military outpost, should adequately and justly compensate the country for the economic, social and political costs entailed in hosting American military forces here, and should favorably compare with compensation paid to other countries hosting similar facilities.

We have faith our bases negotiators share these same concerns and that the figures that will eventually emerge will be the product of earnest and vigorous bargaining on the Philippine panel's side, with only the national interest in mind.

Panel Said to Lose Bargaining Chips

HK180204091 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Feb 91 pp 1, 6

["Analysis" by Ellen Tordesillas: "RP [Republic of the Philippines] loses all bargaining chips"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus is going to Washington in the next few days to discuss with U.S. officials the compensation package for the continued U.S. use of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base in the next seven years.

It will not be a negotiation because Manglapus is no longer in a position to negotiate.

Not that he has lost his chairmanship of the Philippine panel in the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks. But the five months of negotiations, which showed the Philippines has no alternative use of the bases, have completely eroded Manglapus negotiating position.

After the Philippines last week conceded to the U.S. all major issues, Manglapus is left with no leverage to demand for a better package than what the Americans are offering.

The United States has offered $400 million a year if it is allowed to stay only seven years, not the 10 to 12 it originally wanted. The amount includes U.S. contribution to the Philippine Assistance Program, which U.S. negotiators previously insisted was not related to the bases.

The $400-million offer is less than one-half of the $825 million a year that the Philipenes has asked in exchange [for] a new seven- year lease.

Like in 1988, Philippine officials are trying face-saving ways to close the gap. Philippine panel spokesman Raul Rabe said improved trade access and debt reduction arrangements could be included in the computation so that the $825-million figure is met. American officials describe the proposals as "rather complicated."

The Philippine panel needs to come up with a bigger figure to make it easier to sell a new treaty to the Senate, which will ratify it, and to the people who will vote on it if Congress decides to hold a referendum.

Members of the Philippine panel, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were not happy with the concessions to the U.S. on what they called "sovereignty issues" like criminal jurisdiction.

They said they felt from the very beginning that it would be difficult to get a substantial compensation package because of U.S. budgetary problems and the priority given to the Middle East.

But they said they had hoped to score on the core issues relating to the country's sovereignty.

They wanted to end "the regime of official duty certificate" which they feel insults Philippine sovereignty. Philippine courts lose jurisdiction over an American serviceman when a U.S. commander certifies that the alleged criminal acts have been committed in the performance of official duty.

Under the current arrangement, if Philippine officials question the certificate, the issue goes to a committee where both sides are represented. A deadlock makes prosecution impossible.

"If Philippine courts can't try Americans who violate our laws, what sovereignty are we talking about?" an official said.

In the press briefing on the last days of the final round of talks, Rabe said the U.S. maintains a similar arrangement with 31 countries where they have access and basing privileges.

There were four core issues tackled during the negotiations. These were compensation, duration, criminal jurisdiction, and access after the phaseout.

On all four issues, the Philippine panel has already given in. Manglapus' trip to Washington will only formalize the Philippine panel's surrender.

Aquino Target for Assassination; Forces on Alert

HK160200691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Feb 91

[By Elen Aquino—live from Baguio City]

[Text] All military forces based in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City have been placed under full alert status following reports stating that members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement- Soldiers of the Filipino People [RAM-SFP] plan to assassinate President Aquino and other high-ranking government and military officials who are scheduled to attend the graduation ceremony for first class cadets at the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the military has enforced tight security measures at the PMA since 14 February. These include thorough inspection of vehicles entering the academy and prohibition of individuals carrying firearms into the PMA compound—be they officials or aides. This is being enforced at the PMA to ensure peace and order during the graduation rites. President Corazon Aquino will be the guest speaker at the 86th PMA foundation day. It will be recalled that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Rodolfo Biazon said last Friday that the RAM-SFP has not abandoned its plan to assassinate President Aquino and other top military officials based on documents seized by the military from arrested rebel soldiers' leaders.

In this connection, the military is preparing for any eventualities and gave an assurance that the rebel soldiers will not succeed.

Aquino Addresses Military Academy

HK170203491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0205 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Speech by President Corazon C. Aquino during graduation ceremony at Philippine Military Academy in Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City—live, in English]

[Text] Brigadier General Arturo Enrile, Secretary Fidel Ramos, General Rodolfo Biazon, the graduating cadets and their beloved parents, your excellencies of the diplomatic corps, the honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, fellow workers in government, officers, men and women of the Philippine Military Academy, beloved countrymen:

Every year the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces comes here to the City of Pines to receive from the Military Academy the men who will lead our soldiers to

battle. This tradition provides that the commander-in-chief shall call to the minds of the young cadets sacrifices they must make, the risks they must run, and the courage they must always display to be worthy of their noble calling.

The commander-in-chief traditionally exhorts the cadets while they stand on the playing fields to make those soldierly commitments—to honor, duty, country. They must ever after guide their actions on the field of honor.

It is my distinct honor and great pleasure to be here. Yet ["to say"] very little about the sacrifice, risk, courage and commitment, for I stand before those who have already made deep sacrifices, who showed the most exemplary courage, and who demonstrated an unflagging commitment to country and people at the time of deepest need and great peril.

I stand before those who answered the cries of the wounded and the lost. I stand before those who snatched from the jaws of death those who were all but lost to it. The cadets of the Philippine Military Academy, fully instructed by their conscience and their sense of duty, rushed to the rescue of the victims and the danger-filled aftermath of the killer quake.

What is there that we can exhort these young men to do? What is there to tell those whose actions are rather an exhortation to us who are their elders, and to the military who are their peers, to rise to the level of their young and stirring example?

I stand here with the deepest satisfaction that the commander can feel with the soldiers. I stand here in tribute to those who were on their feet for days and nights of rain and cold and hunger, in a race against time, to rescue victims of the quake.

And so I ask those who are here with me today to join in this tribute with a round of applause. [audience claps]

Let me also commend the cadets for returning soon to their studies in cracked buildings and devastated grounds, and while the earth still shook under their feet. It was back to business here in the epicenter of the quake, faster than in a safer part of the country.

You can teach us something about accepting the things we cannot change, making do with what there is, and going forward with the task of nation-building. Let's talk more action.

This graduating class must also be commended for vigorously enforcing the prohibition against hazing. We mention this in the context of the brutal hazing and killing of a young man studying in a school of law, a place where law is supposed to be taught and decency is supposed to be upheld. Here, where men are taught to fight, men have learned to reason and feel compassionate. There, where people are taught to reason, some have become beasts.

The practice of hazing disgraces the institution that tolerates it. They degrade men who suffer it and those who inflict it. No man can learn pride from the deepest humiliation. No man can learn reason from the most intense and senseless sufferance. No man can learn courage from the cowardice of those who gang up on him for the privilege of joining them. No man can learn friendship from those who hurt him, or comradeship from those who abandon him to die. No man can learn leadership from the mindless obedience that is exacted by hazing, nor can he appreciate dignity and freedom from their cruel denial—the same indignity and freedom that this academy is tasked to defend with the lives of its cadets.

The termination of hazing lifts the academy yet higher as the proper model for the civilian society to admire and emulate—disciplined, decent, and dedicated for the good order of society and the well-being of the people. Here, henceforth, men shall be taught to be men and leaders of a just and caring army and a compassionate society.

The military into which you, the fresh graduates of this academy are going, is fading into history. Already its most notable arm, the Philippine Constabulary, has disappeared into its proper mold as a national police force, civilian in character. The conditions that necessitated a special arm for a civil war in our society are fast disappearing. The restoration of democracy has destroyed the moral pretentions of the insurgency and left only its hardened elements, clinging to its dying branches. Make no mistake: those elements still pose a great danger to the safety of our people, but they pose no grave threat to our freedom nor to the life of the republic. The threat has passed, the fight must go, but the victory through the quiet and flagging influence of freedom is certain.

The rightwing military threat is being systematically unravelled. The disgruntled heads from which that threat took its direction are falling one by one. Pretensions about the morality of its aims and the size of its following in the Armed Forces has been exploded. The time of its gravest threat, the December 1989 coup attempt, will mark the moment of its irreversible downfall. The rightwing has spent its force, its pretended justification, and its last hope for popular support. It squandered these in the reckless destruction, or near-destruction, of the national economy.

Much time will probably pass before the people forgive them for the hardships the rebels have brought. The Armed Forces that were organized to meet these threats is passing into history, together with that period of geopolitics that gave it birth. The cold war has ended, but unfortunately the end did not bring peace. What we had thought was the beginning of peace and the end of the cold war has turned out to be the end of peace and the start of the hot one.

This (?phase) may have changed strategic resources and the region's security against conquest, where before it was ideology and world domination. But the price is always the same: the sacrifices of the brave and the suffering of the innocent.

Our country is one of the last places where men are still fighting for opposing ideas on how to order society. I hope we can resolve these differences soon because there is no place for them anymore. The objectives of sovereign policies today range from self-preservation to national development and international cooperation. To that tough and crucial mission, our efforts must be best. To those purposes, the greater part of the limited resources of a developing country must be conserved and devoted.

The end of the Cold War spells the end of the unifying principle for each half into which the world was then divided. Now the world faces the danger of being divided into as many ambitions and by as many nations as feel they have the right, because they have the power to impose their will on another.

You, the new generation of soldiers, must prepare for the opportunities of cooperation and the possibilities of conflict from diverse sources. You, the new generation of officers, are the critical factor in the new military equation. You are not merely joining the armed forces of old, you are making a new one—an armed forces that must acquire new capabilities to fulfill its new and larger mission. Not the least of those capabilities will be the leadership that you represent, and the dedication to the national welfare that you have already so admirably demonstrated. But the greater requirement of national defense can only be met by the people and the Armed Forces combined, working in absolute trust and total support of each other.

A start has been made in that direction, symbolized perhaps by the union between a young cadet and a young [not further specified]—Ensign Diosdado Macasaet, Class of '89, and Arlene Chan, from De La Salle University, (?Viacom), Class of '86—whom we brought together in the yearly fellowship that we started. They met in Baguio on February 5, 1988, and were married on July 22, 1990 at the PSG Chapel, with the commander-in-chief as their sponsor.

There must be a marriage between army and nation, so that the sharpness of the sword shall be supported by the thickness of the blade. Together we shall be stronger, and our liberty and independence better secured.

On one last note, let me end. No commander has felt a deeper satisfaction with her nation's soldiers than I feel today. Congratulations, mabuhay sa inyong lahat [long life to all of you].

Thailand

U.S. Planes Bound for Gulf Refuel at Airport

BK1702032191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Feb 91 p A4

[From the "Political Hearsay" column]

[Text] The Thai Government is allowing American planes chartered by the Japanese to refuel at Don Muang Airport on their way to Saudi Arabia. The planes are carrying plastic oil booms to block oil spills released by Iraq from reaching the desert kingdom's desalination plants.

Well-informed sources told THE NATION that the Japanese Embassy here sought an exception from the government for the refuelling because of Thailand's strict rules on the use of scarce jet fuel by foreign aircraft.

"It was PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi who gave the Japanese permission to refuel here," said one of the sources.

The Japanese reportedly planned to fly a total of 30 kilometres of plastic oil booms to Saudi Arabia, where it helped design the desalination plants. Each plane, said a source, can accommodate only 5 kilometres of the booms. That means the Japanese will have to fly a total of six flights to Saudi Arabia through Bangkok. The first flight transited at Don Muang Airport during the first week of this month. American, and not Japanese, planes are being used for the operation.

Of course, Thai authorities have been very quiet about the flights for fear of offending Iraq. Already, Thailand has been cited by the Americans as a country where terrorist action is possible because of the Gulf War.

But they certainly must be quietly hoping that the Saudis appreciate what the Thais are doing.

Officials 'Cautiously' Welcome Iraqi Peace Offer

BK1702021191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Feb 91 p A5

[By Kunlachada Chaiphiphat and Prayut Siwayawirot]

[Text] Thai officials yesterday cautiously welcomed Baghdad's surprise offer to comply with UN resolutions on the Iraqi pullout of Kuwait, suggesting that it might form a basis for further negotiations although the proposal is still hedged with conditions.

The government officials said in a background briefing that the Thai Foreign Ministry might have to react very cautiously towards the new development in the Gulf War to avoid possible "domestic political repercussions."

The officials did not elaborate but they were apparently referring to the sensitivity of the issue among the Thai Muslim community, which was split over the US-led military offensive to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Foreign Ministry Arthit Urairat's bold diplomatic initiative of siding with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait over the conflict caused a barrage of criticism from the Opposition, who accused him of unnecessarily dragging Thailand into the Gulf conflict. But Arthit later clarified that his initiative was in line with Thailand's support for UN resolutions calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

One Thai official, speaking in his personal capacity, said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had "lost face considerably" by accepting the UN resolutions in the announcement by his ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

"On the one hand, the statement was short of fully complying with the UN resolutions but on the other, it should further explored in talks. It's now time to resume negotiations," he added.

Meanwhile, leaders of South Teachers Association yesterday agreed at a meeting that the government should announce its "neutrality" on the Gulf War.

Speaking after a meeting at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Hat Yai, Songkhla province, association spokesman Phichai Soan said unless the Thai government took a clear stand and stuck to it, southern Muslim separatists might step up their attacks. "That may threaten the lives and security of teachers based at southern schools," he added.

Dailies Comment on Iraqi Offer To Withdraw

BK1802121191

[Editorial Report] Three Thai language dailies—SIAM RAT, THAI RAT, and BAN MUANG—on 18 February publish commentaries on Iraq's offer to negotiate a withdrawal from Kuwait in line with a UN Security Council resolution.

SIAM RAT's 800-word editorial on page 8, entitled "Is Saddam Really Surrendering?" reviews Saddam Husayn's failure in all the tactics he has deployed since the outbreak of the war—to turn the war with the allies into a holy war, to create a rift within the anti-Iraqi coalition, and to provoke Israeli retaliation in order to divide the Arab coalition. Iraq has also been trying to divide the allies. In the latest development, it accused the allied forces of targeting civilian bomb shelters during its air raids resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people.

The Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council's statement on the withdrawal is another ploy. Saddam Husayn again wanted to drive a wedge into allied support and to undermine Arab support for the allied military operations. It was also meant to buy time for Iraq to regroup and resupply its forces seriously weakened by the allied air war. Also, Iraq wished to precipitate the ground war as it thinks that would be to its advantage and within its ability to cause massive numbers of deaths on the allied ground troops.

"President Saddam thinks that the American people will not tolerate large casualties and will pressure the U.S. President to withdraw from the Persian Gulf if U.S. soldiers are killed, the way the United States once pulled out of its war in Indochina. Anyway, it seems that the United States is aware of the plan, and has thus delayed waging the ground battle while continuing with the air war where it has superiority over Iraq," the editorial says, and concludes that it is hoped the allies will stand firm in its plan to fight until Iraq withdraws from Kuwait unconditionally.

THAI RAT's 600-word column on page 2 by Sunthon Watts under the rubric "The World Window," notes that Iraq's offer is full of conditions, unacceptable to President Bush, President Mitterrand, and even to the eight Arab countries in the coalition. The column says: "If President Bush was going to accept those conditions, he would have accepted them a long time ago without waiting until U.S. troops' lives were at risk in the desert, as those conditions are what Saddam has been demanding all the time."

Saddam's proposal must be aimed at winning sympathy from the Soviet Union which is already leaning toward Baghdad on its bid as peace emissary to end the Gulf war. It is meant to create a rift among the allies. Or Saddam may need a temporary cease-fire in order to rebuild his badly battered army. "In war, the party that is first to ask for peace talks is considered the party already weakened by the losses. But surprisingly, Saddam set so many conditions that it was as if he was the conqueror. This means, despite his military losses, he still aims at political victory," the columnist quips.

BAN MUANG's 600-word editorial on page 2, entitled "Vanishing Peace," notes that while some of the U.S.-led allies are suspicious of Iraq's offer, some of them think it gives a prospect for avoiding a massacre and bloodshed with the start of a massive ground battle planned by the allies to liberate Kuwait. "Although the offer is full of conditions, there are grounds or at least there is a starting point for diplomatic and political negotiations during which unacceptable conditions can be scaled down. And this is better than massive killings," the editorial says. It concludes that, although negotiations may take a long time, any effort to prevent a human massacre is always worth trying.

Establishment of Mideast Trade Centers Suspended

BK1902040291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Feb 91 p B1, B10

[By Atchara Phongwutitham]

[Text] The Department of Export Promotion has suspended the setting up of two trade centres in the Middle East and adjusted the country's export strategy to counter the adverse impact of the Gulf War.

The department had earlier planned to open two trade offices in Kuwait and Turkey in addition to the existing commercial centre in Dubayy. But the outbreak of hostilities had set back the projects.

At the same time, the department has to send regular trade missions to the Middle Eastern countries to be in

touch with the existing and potential buyers. Exporters, meanwhile, are encouraged to take part in international fairs which target importers in the region.

The measures are seen as a preparation for the Thai exporters to cash in on the Middle Eastern markets once the war ends.

This is in line with the Commerce Ministry's policy to increase the export to non-conventional markets. Moreover, the ministry has attempted to boost the export this year by 20 percent, instead of 12 percent as earlier projected.

Oranut Osathanon, director general of the Department of Export Promotion, told THE NATION that the department has to map out an emergency plan to handle export promotion at the time of the fighting in the Gulf. The initial plan did not foresee the outbreak of war.

The department has recommended that the exporters should [as published] an active sales promotion campaign, which is to travel to the United States, Europe and the Middle East more often to receive orders from customers, instead of waiting for customers to place orders, given the reluctance of businessmen to travel during war time.

Although the market in the Middle East cannot be developed at the moment, Oranut was confident that the demand for consumer products would increase significantly if the war ended.

Although the lack of transport facilities would continue to pose difficulties for shipment, she said the absence of protectionist measures and strong purchasing power of these countries offered Thailand a great opportunity to boost its exports there.

Exports to the Middle East accounted for only six percent of the country's export revenue worth Bt [baht] 30 billion. Of this amount, 10 percent were exports to Iraq and Kuwait. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were the two largest buyers in the Middle East, taking about 50 percent of Thai exports to this region.

Oranut said that the buying pattern of consumers in Thailand's markets would also switch from luxurious items to necessities. The purchasing power might decline. She expressed worry that the export target might be affected if local businesses continued to adopt passive sales strategies.

According to the official, the design, quality and durability of Thai products would play decisive roles in the international markets as low prices alone would not help exporters.

Iran Proposes Oil for Rice Barter Deal

BK1802084791 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on has explained to reporters about Iran's proposal to buy Thai rice in exchange for its oil.

The minister said: When a foreign government wants to buy high-quality rice from Thailand, the Commerce Ministry will assign the private sector to take responsibility for negotiating the sale. The ministry will negotiate only in the case of low-grade rice.

For Iran, then, it should negotiate with the private sector first. The question of whether there will be a barter deal with rice traded for oil will depend on the negotiations.

In addition, the minister disclosed that at present Thailand does not have much high-quality rice in store and its price is high while the price of crude oil is gradually decreasing. It would be to Thailand's disadvantage to agree to sell high-quality rice to Iran now.

Aviation Rights Committee Actions Said 'Correct'

BK1602075991 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 16 Feb 91 p 4

[Text] According to a source close to the prime minister's advisory team at Ban Phitsanulok, the action to date by the committee on aviation rights negotiations between Thailand and the United States, headed by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Communications Mahidon Chantharangkun, which has followed the policy of the government committee, has been correct and has received the continued support of the prime minister's advisory team. To date the Thai airline has suffered a great disadvantage vis-a-vis the U.S. airlines due to the number of flights by the latter which has resulted in considerable loss in the Thai airline's market share.

The source said: "It is not a matter of an attempt to create tension. The U.S. side had several months to make contact but did not do so. We will let U.S. flights continue after 31 March, when the temporary agreement ends, requiring that U.S. flights be cut from 37 to 28 a week." The source said the attitude of Communications Minister Samak Suntharawet on his negotiation posture will have to be taken into consideration as well.

The source said: "To date we are confident that the conduct of our negotiation team has been correct. We have not been aggressive or made accusations against anyone, because both sides must take into account their national interests. But we knew all along about the attempts to change the composition of our negotiation committee." The source also noted that the United States has been lobbying the Thai Foreign Ministry to play a role in the aviation rights negotiations process.

Team Prepares for Talks on Intellectual Property

BK1902015991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Feb 91 p B1

[Text] A team of Thai officials will leave for Los Angeles at the beginning of next month to testify before the United States Trade Representative [USTR] on the charge that Thailand has failed to provide "effective and adequate" protection to intellectual property rights.

The process is part of the USTR investigation into a complaint filed by American trade associations that the

Thai government's failure has led to rampant infringements of video tapes, music cassettes and films. The USTR accepted the petition late last year.

The meeting will be held on Mar 7-8 in Los Angeles. The US mission will be chaired by Peter Collins, a USTR senior official.

Kroekrai Chiraphaet, deputy permanent secretary of the Commerce Ministry and leader of the Thai delegation, said that Thailand will reassure the United States that it is accelerating the legal procedures to amend relevant laws in order to give better protection to patents, copyrights and trademarks.

Thai government is reviewing and amending its patent and copyright laws partly to comply with Washington's demands in exchange for the retention of the tax concessions known as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and continued access to the American market, he said.

The amended legislation on trademarks, which has passed the first House reading, is being scrutinized by a House sub-committee.

Kroekkrai said he will tell the US counterpart about the progress made by the government to improve related legislations to provide better protection.

The Thai laws, he said, offer fair and equal treatment to Americans to take action against the copycats. In addition, the police has become more cooperative and agreed to accelerate the procedure to file the case with the court. A new police task force has been set up to handle economic crimes, Kroekkrai said.

"The Americans have to understand that the delay at this stage is not because we want to buy time. The police has to take charge of several duties," he said.

Khukrit Resigns as Social Action Party Leader

BK1802071891 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 18 Feb 91 pp 1,16

[Text] After having expressed his intention to resign as leader of the Social Action Party [SAP] because of his age, Major General M.R. Khukrit Pramot officially announced his resignation from the post when he submitted a letter of resignation dated 17 February to the SAP secretary general, Montri Phongphanit.

The letter says: "In my latest acceptance of the post of leader of the SAP, my intention from the beginning, as I have already informed Mr. Secretary General, was that I would serve the party by taking the particular post only for a certain period of time and would resign before my 80th birthday. The time has now come. I, therefore, wish to tender my resignation from the post of leader of the SAP from now on. Please be informed of my decision so that further steps will be taken accordingly. Regards." Signed, Maj. Gen. M.R. Khukrit Pramot.

Vietnam

Spokesman on Iraqi Statement; Urges Negotiations

BK1802114291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman, when asked about Vietnamese attitudes toward the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council's 15 February statement which accepts UN Security Council Resolution 660 and raises several attached conditions to be settled replied: Right from the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, Vietnam has called for the settlement of the problem through peaceful means. In this spirit, Vietnam holds the view that Iraq's 15 February statement, intended to solve the problem through negotiations, is a positive sign in the current situation. Despite the differing stances of the parties concerned, it is most important and urgent that they stop the fighting and sit at the negotiating table in order to find a satisfactory solution.

France To Help Workers Returning From Iraq

BK1702163091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] According to foreign sources, the French Foreign Ministry on 16 February announced that the French Government has decided to provide aid worth $2 million for use in repatriating about 2,500 Vietnamese workers from Iraq.

Another 430 Workers Return Home From Iraq

BK1903085291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Yesterday, 18 February, 430 Vietnamese workers left Tehran for Ho Chi Minh City aboard a plane chartered by the Iranian airline. The Vietnamese workers' departure from Iraq was initiated by France. Two other flights will carry 860 more Vietnamese back home within the next few days.

1991 USSR Trade Expected to Total $1 Billion

BK1603094091 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] Turnover of trade between Vietnam and the Soviet Union is expected to total one billion U.S. dollars this year.

Economic and trade agreements newly filed by the two countries provide for Soviet supply special commodities such as petroleum, fertilizer, steel, and tractors in exchange for Vietnam rubber, seafood, vegetables, cooking oil, and light industry products.

The two sides also agreed the facilities should direct bilateral cooperation between localities, branches, enterprises, and organizations in addition to government-to-government dealings.

Ambassador Attends USSR Tet Celebration

BK1702133091 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] The Union of Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society recently held a get-together and performance shows to welcome the Vietnamese traditional new year festival.

Mr. Hoang Manh Cam, Vietnamese ambassador to the Soviet Union, and other representatives of the Vietnamese offices in the Soviet Union were present at the get-together.

Document on Customs, Training Signed With France

BK1802141091 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Vietnam and France have signed a document on customs, personnel training, and technical equipment assistance. The document on these cooperations was signed in France during a recent working visit to France of Mr. Truong Quang Dam, head of the Vietnam General Department of Customs.

NHAN DAN Article on Party Draft Platform

BK1802124791 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 29 Jan 91 pp 1, 4

[Article by Hoang Phong: "Strengthen the All-People Solidarity Front, Consolidate the Bloc of Worker-Peasant-Intellectual Alliance" published under the rubric "Contributing Views to the Draft Documents of the Seventh Party Congress"]

[Text] According to the draft platform, one of the basic principles that we must grasp in order to resolve the fundamental contradiction facing our society in the current advance to socialism calls for efforts "to consolidate and expand the national united front as well as to rally all forces in the struggle for people's prosperity and national strength."

I fully agree with that principle. I would, however, like to suggest that we regard this as a vital issue for the party and the nation. Only when we can maintain and expand the all-people solidarity bloc and consolidate and strengthen the relations between the party and the people can we have the conditions for guaranteeing success for the national revolutionary undertaking. It is necessary to give more thought to this principle and to mention it first before any other principles which need to be fully understood. It is advisable not to belittle the importance of this issue or to use only a very short sentence to deal with it. We should elaborate on this principle as follows: "First, consolidate and expand the national united front based on the bloc of worker-peasant-intellectual alliance and under the leadership of the workers' party. The front must serve as a bridge linking the party with the people, a firm mainstay for the socialist state, and a common instrument for the people to exercise the right to mastership."

The front is a venue for rallying people of different walks of life in the struggle for well-defined objectives. There are different goals for different stages of the revolution. The draft platform has regarded "people's prosperity and national strength" as the objective to be fulfilled in the new stage of the revolution. In the final analysis, "people's prosperity and national strength" are also the fundamental goals that we are striving to reach through the socialist path. Thanks to that objective, we will be able to win the people's hearts and minds and to motivate all patriotic and progressive forces in and outside the country to contribute manpower, material resources, intelligence, and talents to national construction, thus helping our country overcome poverty and backwardness and place itself on the same par with other countries in the world.

We all know that Uncle Ho has guided our people in the struggle to liberate the country, to restore independence and freedom, and to advance to socialism. He has warned us that since the road ahead is rife with countless difficulties and hardships, we must know how to make the proper moves in order to reach our final destination. Faced with danger, "the party must make quick decisions and must adopt different measures, including painful ones, to cope with the situation" (Complete Collection of Works, Vol 6, p 21). For instance, following the success of the August Revolution, the newly established people's administration had to cope with countless internal enemies and foreign aggressors. Faced with such a situation, the party made public the decision to dissolve its organizations and conducted secret activities while at the same time upholding the roles of the Viet Minh Front and the Coalition Government.... As far as the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance is concerned, thanks to the talented leadership of Uncle Ho and the party, we have successfully rallied many patriotic forces in and outside the country in our glorious struggle. As a result, we have scored resounding victories and have won the admiration of the whole world. Nobody is unaware of the fact that the National Liberation Front and the South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government were initiated and guided by the party.

After recalling a major lesson on how to stand firm on those flexible principles and strategies advocated by Uncle Ho, I think that it would be better for the party Central Committee to take into account the pros and cons of the current international and domestic situations in order to continue to further uphold its national independence banner and place more emphasis on the cause of making the people prosperous and the country powerful. Uncle Ho's banner of "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" has led us to the great victory in the spring of 1975 and this banner will certainly be able to lead us to more successes under the current international and domestic circumstances. A genuine communist must first of all be a genuine patriot.

Prior to being called Ho Chi Minh, our uncle was known as Nguyen Ai Quoc. He highly succeeded in grafting the stem of communism onto the tree of patriotism. Only when this tree is strongly built and deep-rooted can the stem become more luxuriant and beautiful.

Enhancing the fundamental alliance.

I am very pleased to note that the platform points out the need to "use the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance as a foundation" for the socialist state. If my proposal for a Unified National Front as presented at the beginning of this article cannot be written into the platform, then the following passage should at least be written instead: "Use the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance as a foundation for the Unified National Front, a firm prop of the socialist state" in accordance with the virtue of Article 9 of our country's Constitution.

Broadening and enhancing this fundamental alliance is a very important development of our revolutionary driving force, clearly pointing out who is the main driving force or "a mainstay"—as it is commonly known—in the new stage.

Both in theory and practice, it is justifiable that our party has been able to draw the entire peasant class into the national democratic revolution and constantly enhance and consolidate the worker-peasant alliance, using it as a solid foundation for the Unified National Front and the people's democratic administration.

Here I would like to refer to the building of a worker-peasant- intellectual alliance bloc.

The Vietnam Workers Party's original platform (of 1951) said: "The driving force of our country's revolution is our people, the foundation of which is workers, peasants, and intellectuals." In 1971, on behalf of the party, Comrade Truong Chinh spoke at a front congress, saying that: "The Vietnam Fatherland Front has, in fact, become a front of manual and intellectual workers." He, however, affirmed: "The front can only be expanded and consolidated when it is firmly based on a worker-peasant alliance." (Ibid, pages 36 and 34). In 1983, Directive No. 17 of the (fifth) party Central Committee Secretariat still saw the most important task of the front as being how to "satisfactorily build the worker-peasant alliance and promote close unity between intellectuals and the laboring people of all strata."

Thus, as I see it, it took us 60 years to give the Vietnamese intellectuals a rightful place as advised by Uncle Ho in the original party platform.

In the Abridged Strategy and Abridged Program of the party, Uncle Ho emphatically wrote: "The party should strive to keep in touch with and pull the bourgeoisie and intelligentsia toward the proletariat." He also listed the names of the various political organizations formed by the intellectuals at that time such as Thanh Nien, Tan Viet, Nguyen An Ninh faction, etc... (Complete Collection of Works, Vol. 2, pp 286, 299). But in his Political Thesis, the role and position of the intelligentsia, the bourgeoisie, and students was assessed quite differently. Consequently, in early 1931 the Trung Ky [Central Vietnam] regional party committee came up with an incorrect policy advocating that "intellectuals and wealthy landlords must be radically wiped out."

Some people said that President Ho Chi Minh was the most outstanding intellectual and as a result, he understood and admired competent, honest, intelligent people. His generous nature and farsightedness had won the hearts of all intellectuals—from the worker-peasant group to the intelligentsia—who were more than willing to join hands in serving the people and the revolution. For this reason, the fact that the draft platform attaches importance to "the bloc of worker-peasant-intellectual alliance" is very sensible and reflects a historical reality.

At present, we have more than 400,000 cadres with university and college backgrounds or higher. Among them, 384 are holders of Ph.D degrees, 6,508 hold an M.S. degree, and 209 are professors and 1,200 associated professors (figures provided by the the State Science Commission up to 31 December 1989). Many Vietnamese intellectuals are as capable as foreign scholars in various fields. These are the people who will contribute a great deal to the revolution and should be trusted. If the party and state adopt an appropriate policy to treat them well, then all intelligent groups will be developed and all potential will be exploited, thus contributing to stabilizing and developing the socioeconomic situation in our country. Given the increasing scientific and technological innovations in the world, the Vietnamese intellectuals will certainly be able to bring their creativity into full play, thereby being able to combine the national strength with that of the era.

Only by truly strengthening and consolidating the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance will we be able to strengthen and expand its activities, enhance the all-people unity bloc in the new stage, and integrate all forces to build our nation's strength and prosperity.

Regarding the united national front, I suggest that the party Central Committee should study more carefully the past experiences to correctly determine the position, role, function, and task of the front in the new stage. I think that we should reconsider the rating of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] which was placed at the same level with other mass organizations as done by the Sixth Party Central Committee's eight plenum resolution (in March 1990). Although the resolution stipulated that "the VFF plays a great role in consolidating and strengthening the all-people unity bloc and in building and defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland," it urged the front to "strive to mobilize the elderly, personalities, businessmen, and exemplary persons (noted: only exemplary persons' of the ethnic minority groups, religious dignitaries, and overseas Vietnamese" to join the front. As a result, in comparison

with Directive No. 17, the function and task of the front were scaled down and not expanded as mentioned in the draft platform.

Moreover, the party should create favorable conditions for the VFF, in particular and other mass organizations and societies, to generally develop their dynamism so as to effectively contribute to formulating and implementing lines and policies aimed at strengthening the people's daily life and the nation's destiny. At present, the VFF and other mass organizations are still regarded as subordinate units to party committee echelons. As a result, the VFF and mass organizations at various levels are in a passive position to "take orders to carry out tasks," rather than taking any initiatives by themselves.

Professor on Draft Platform, Socialist Paths

BK1702122791 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Jan 91, pp 1,4

[Article by Professor Tran Nham: "Resolutely Follow the Socialist Path—That Is the Principled Stance of the Draft Platform" published under the rubric "Contributing Views to the Draft Documents of the Seventh Party Congress"]

[Text] The Draft Platform for the Building of Socialism in the Transition Period stresses: We are determined to unswervingly advance along the socialist path. This is the struggle and objective of our party and people in the past, present, and future. This is a definite statement of the path that our people have chosen and are determined to follow to the end. Some people have expressed the idea that it is too rigid and not astute to make such a statement at a time when the socialist countries are in the grip of a serious crisis, and that it might be wise to take one step back—and in order to make two steps forward.

In my opinion, that statement is a principled one and is extremely important for both the present and the future. However, in order to resolutely follow the socialist path we must reexamine socialism in a scientific manner. First of all, it is necessary to reconsider the pattern of transition to socialism in Vietnam. Countries advancing to socialism may follow one of these three patterns:

- Making the transition from highly developed capitalism to socialism. Karl Marx forecast this transition pattern in his work Critique of the Botha Program. To date, there has been no actual case of such a transition in history. This is a pattern of direct advance to socialism, bypassing special transitional steps.

- Making the transition from moderately or lowly developed capitalism to socialism. This pattern of transition took place in the Soviet Union and a number of socialist countries in East Europe. There have been some models of this transition pattern, but to date none have been successful and have been harshly criticized.

- Making the transition from a precapitalist colonial society to socialism, bypassing the capitalist socioeconomic form. Marxism-Leninism only predicted this pattern of transition a century ago and there has been scant guidance on its implementation. Practical experience in this field has also been negligible. Generally speaking, we are still in the process of searching and discovering, and success has been marginal while difficulties and mistakes have been numerous.

The transition to socialism in our country follows the third pattern. For this reason, in principle the models and theories of the first two patterns are inapplicable; nor can the experience derived from these transition patterns be used as the basis for examining the transition period in Vietnam.

For a long time we have found that the fundamental characteristic of our country is that we started from a semifeudal colonial society with an economy marked by predominantly small scale production and directly advanced to socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development. This is the most fundamental characteristic that shows the true nature of the process of building socialism in our country and defines the principal content of that process. However, in reality we applied voluntarist policies unsuitable for the transition pattern determined by our knowledge. We hastily enforced public ownership and collectivization of the means of production and swiftly established socialist production relations, allowing only the state and collective sectors to remain. Out of impatience we abolished the private capitalist and individual economic sectors of small producers of goods. For several years on end we refused to accept the commodity economy, the market mechanism, the law of value, and so forth. In fact, we negated the driving forces necessary to release all potentials to promote the development of production forces.

Why this discrepancy between our words and our deeds? Its causes are numerous, but first and foremost, wrong perception is the chief cause. We confused one transition pattern with another and wanted to apply immediately the pattern of direct transition to socialism without having to go through intermediary stages and special cushion steps. For this reason, although we realized the most fundamental characteristic of our country, we still failed to acquire a thorough and profound understanding of the essence of the third pattern of transition, which we had to choose. It is an illusion to wish to advance directly to socialism without going through the stage of capitalist development.

Lenin once advised that in a agricultural country we should guard against the bourgeois psychology which consider socialism as synonymous with paradise. Lenin wanted to reminded us not to regard socialist construction as just an undertaking for the sake of the future generation by trying to rush to its achievement while losing sight of our very low starting point and our urgent immediate tasks and sacrificing the present generations for a distant future. If the present generations cannot

appreciate socialism in their daily life, what forces can we rely on to build socialism?

Chapter II of the draft platform stresses the dire need of the transition to socialism in our country. I have a different opinion. The transition to socialism in our country could be indispensable and nonessential at the same time. It could be indispensable in terms of historical evolution, political development, and trends of the time. Nevertheless, it could be nonessential if one takes into account the economy and the level of development of the work force. Therefore, it is advisable not to attach importance only to the indispensable side and ignore the nonessential aspect of the issue. It is precisely because of that very lack of solid economic premises and conditions that the transition to socialism in our country will drag on and experience countless difficulties and complications. Because of a backward economy, after more than 15 years of socialist construction, our entire country is still unable to create necessary economic premises and conditions for undertaking the transition to socialism as a natural course of the development of history.

Together with a very low starting point of the economy and the vestiges of war, the past errors on the economic front have plunged our country into a protracted socio-economic crisis. After winning historic victories and establishing a popular administration, our people are now facing the truth that in terms of economic growth and living standards, our country is among the world's poorest nations. What a great challenge for our entire party and people!

Regarding the problem of bypassing certain stages of development of history, we deem it necessary to clearly understand which issues should or should not be left out. As far as the transition to socialism is concerned, one can bypass the stage of capitalist development but cannot belittle the groundworks that capitalism has created for the new society which is supposed to replace the capitalist society. One can also ignore the capitalist socioeconomic development pattern but cannot underestimate efforts to prepare necessary premises, especially economic premises, for the transition period. Realities do not allow us to advance directly to socialism without going through special transitional steps. Marx once said: We suffer because of capitalist development and because of the lack of it as well. Allowing the capitalist factor to reach a certain level of development during the transition period is an objective issue. Any attempt to get rid of that factor overnight or to prevent it from developing its effect is at variance with the law on evolution. Because the people's administration uses the capitalist economy as a means to advance to socialism, this process must be regarded as a state-initiated capitalism, a step forward which, although it does not mean genuine socialism, already includes "three-fourth of all the traits of socialism" (Lenin). In other words, that process is closer to socialism than the backward small peasant economy.

Experiences indicate that given a backward economy and poorly developed infrastructures, all attempts to broaden the state mechanism and superstructures instead of giving priority development to production would create a huge burden on the infrastructures and impede economic development. It is for this very reason that the draft platform stressed the need to "attach primary importance to the development of the work force and to national industrialization." From an objective point of view, the application of the third pattern of transition to the underdeveloped countries has very little to do with socialism but means a lot in terms of slow development on the economic, social, and cultural fronts. As far as these countries are concerned, efforts are needed to work out appropriate strategies aimed at making progress step by step in accordance with the harsh rules governing the growth of underdeveloped nations.

Therefore, it does not mean that once it has been established, a people's administration is capable of doing everything and of bypassing certain steps, including necessary economic steps. In other words, that administration cannot select a pattern of transition to socialism at will without paying attention to conditions and rules.

Realities require us to reexamine socialism in a scientific manner. The new thinking about socialism must serve as a guiding principle for our people in their determination to follow the socialist path they have chosen.

Army Living Conditions, Responsibilities Viewed

BK1502143991 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Jan 91 p 1

[Article by Luc Van Thao: "Chapter Four Should Be Divided Into Two Chapters: National Defense and Security, and Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Although domestic and foreign policy are closely interrelated, they are still two separate policies. The chapter on foreign policy should contain more profound and broader content. Our country needs an adequate foreign policy aimed at intensifying relations with foreign countries and opening doors for foreign investment.

Here we will only talk about what the army's role in national defense and security should be.

The platform as it is (the draft) still emphasizes the citation of past achievements and has not clarified what should be the army's function and role at present and throughout the period of the transition to socialism.

The army's primary mission is to defend the country against foreign aggression. The enemy plot to make the inside collude with the outside forces to sabotage the revolution in Vietnam and Indochina has forced us to remain constantly vigilant. The army's routine duty is to defend the country's border and islands. The army must essentially modernize itself to keep abreast of its duty to defend the country under the present conditions.

As the army's personnel strength is being reduced, its quality must be all the more highly upheld. The army troops are performing not only their task of fighting foreign aggressors, but also the task of protecting the regime and assuring domestic security in which coordination between the local self-defense and police forces must be taken into account. Lessons learned from past experiences in opposing the enemy's forced evacuation of our compatriots in 1954 and in searching the large infiltrated commando units show that the army troops always remain the core force. They have gone to places where the enemy is trying to win the people and causing disturbances in order to win over the people's confidence by their explanations. Troops are the people's own children who have withstood sacrifices to save the country and serve the people. Every family has a member in the army. These lessons have been demonstrated by realities. Our troops are really an operational force. This is a function and a fine tradition of our troops. If traditional experiences can be promoted and applied creatively, our troops will be able to satisfactorily motivate the masses in the new situation.

It is therefore necessary to state clearly that our troops "are always faithful to the party and the people." They are absolutely loyal to the party and the country, and are placed under absolute party leadership to fulfill their task of protecting the country and regime.

Concerning political education, the traditional quality of "Uncle Ho's Soldiers," which has won the people's confidence, must be built and developed. With regard to cadres' role, particular emphasis must be placed on building their command, combat, technical, professional, and special abilities as well as their revolutionary qualities.

Concerning the policy of ensuring the material and moral lives of cadres and combatants, it is inaccurate and too flexible to say "there is a relevant policy." It is appropriate to leave the situation of privations just as it is now. It can be explained: Since all the people are in dire straits, such living conditions for the troops correspond to the country's poor situation. Some people suggest replacing the words "preferential treatment" because these words are not yet specific enough and do not manifest military labor, the task of national defense, and the viewpoints of the party, the state, and the people toward troops. Benefits and duties must go together. Although our troops' traditions of withstanding sacrifices, hardships, and dangers are very valuable, we cannot overlook the task of constantly raising the material and moral living standards for troops in order to consolidate their strength.

"With a full stomach, we will fight victoriously" was a slogan during the resistance struggle. Now, we must secure the prescribed rations adequately as previously calculated in order to feed troops. Different rations must be secured for troops in technical armed services so they can enjoy good health and undergo training.

Officers' pay must, first of all, be sufficient for them to live and to feed at least one or two members of their families. The pay of an officer of the lowest rank must be twice the food ration allowance prescribed for an enlisted man. This should be called "national defense" pay. A "national defense guarantee" tax is usually collected in various countries to build the army and defend the country. Our people will certainly be willing to contribute to such a fund to help defend the country and protect the peaceful labor life of national construction.

Generals Review Military, National Defense Tasks

BK1702101791 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Jan 91 p 1

[By Le Hong Khe]

[Text] Since the convening of the all-army politico-military conference a month ago, to review the military and national defense tasks during the 1986-90 5 year period and to discuss orientations and tasks for the next 5 years (1991-95), all military regions, armed branches and services, military agencies and schools of the entire army have held meetings to improve their work and to firmly grasp the Party Central Committee Military Commission's resolution on national defense orientations and tasks for the next five years. During the same period, various military regions also held their party committee conferences with the participation of secretaries of provincial and city party committees. Moreover, many military units have held conferences to review results of the 1990 emulation movement to enhance achievements and overcome negativism and shortcomings. Many leading cadres of the Party Central Committee Military Commission, the Ministry of National Defense, general departments, and agencies visited units and localities to monitor the implementation of the Commission's resolution on the 1991 military and national defense tasks. General Le Duc Anh, minister of national defense; General Doan Khue, chief of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] general staff; General Nguyen Quyet, head of the VPA general political department attended conferences and worked with the 7th and 9th Military Regions, the Cuu Long Army Corps, localities, military units and schools in southern Vietnam. The most striking feature is that although cadres, combatants, and national defense workers and personnel faced difficulties in their daily life, they expressed an identity of views on the Party Central Committee Military Commission's resolutions on appraising the military tasks during the past years and on assessing the enemy's schemes and activities at present. They have also asserted that various armed forces must, together with the people, strive to overcome all difficulties and ordeals to triumphantly fulfill all assigned tasks. Most importantly, they must bring into full play the spirit of national independence and self-reliance and strive to enhance the combined strengths of armed forces units to satisfactorily implement the three fundamental tasks of firmly defending the fatherland and socialist system on the basis of ensuring combat readiness, positively participating in productive

labor, strengthening national economy, and building socialism; and continuing to enhance the solidarity with and fulfill the international obligations toward the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

It is imperative for all military units to triumphantly fulfill the 1991 military and national defense tasks, strive to contribute ideas to the draft documents of the upcoming seventh party congress, steadfastly uphold the objectives and ideal of socialism, and firmly protect the Communist Party of Vietnam, the state, and the fatherland's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Thai Paper Reports Growth of Oil, Gas Sector

BK1902014991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Feb 91 p B3

[By Kawi Chongkittavorn]

[Text] Vietnam is giving priority to oil and gas exploration in its resource-rich offshore areas as part of a national strategy to speed up economic development, a source with close ties to the ruling communist party said.

The source said the need for a "rapid increase in oil and gas production" has been highlighted for the first time in a political report, circulated last week to party cells by a drafting committee chaired by the Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh.

The report has been reviewed four times to allow for the divergent views of the party's Central Committee members. At the 11th Plenum Meeting, held in early January in Ho Chi Minh City, top party members could not agree on a two-part draft report covering political, economic, military, diplomatic and social issues.

The first part of the report contained an assessment of the past five years since the Sixth National Party Congress in 1986 and the second part set new directions for economic development over the next five years leading to the Eighth National Party Congress.

It is now clear that the Seventh Party Congress will be postponed until June, according to Hanoi-based diplomats. It was originally scheduled for May.

Vietnam is hoping that crude oil production will reach 10 million tonnes annually within the next five years, a pre-requisite for becoming a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Last year, Vietso-Petro, a USSR-Vietnamese oil-drilling joint venture, produced 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil. Most was exported to the USSR and Japan. This year, it is expected to produce 3.7 million tonnes of crude oil, according to the source, who asked not to be identified.

The source said the participation of Western countries has enabled the country to expand its offshore oil and gas exploration activities, including the area adjacent to the Gulf of Thailand.

There are about 6,400 sq kms in the Gulf of Thailand that can be jointly explored by Vietnam and Thailand, and a third country.

Thailand has expressed interest in oil and gas exploration in Vietnam. Thai officials also hope that when Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan meets his Vietnamese counterpart, Do Muoi, concrete plans for joint oil exploration will be discussed.

In recent weeks, Vietnam's government-controlled mass media has played up reports of oil field discoveries and of foreign companies that have invested in oil exploration projects.

Apart from oil and gas production, the political report also recommended the development of heavy industry, which focuses on the production of machine tools. The source said this area was completely neglected in the Sixth National Congress.

Hefty cuts in foreign aid, especially from the Soviet Union, the source added, has deprived Hanoi of machinery vital for light industry. "We must improve our skills and self sufficiency," the source said.

The revival of heavy industry and increased oil output are aimed at increasing Vietnam's self-sufficiency and improving the livelihood of the Vietnamese people, the source added.

In the past, the country put top priority on food, consumer goods and export production. "Now the country can afford to look at housing, salary structures and other social improvements," the source said.

Civil service salary structures have not changed in five years. While the political report reaffirms the continuation of moves toward a market-oriented economy, it fails to pinpoint measures that will loosen the party's political control over the country.

However, the report refers to the key role played by the National Assembly and various popular organizations in making Vietnam more "democratic."

Ho Chi Minh City Efforts To Solve Unemployment

BK1502155091 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 15—With a population of over 4 million, Ho Chi Minh City is one of the biggest and most densely populated cities in Vietnam. For many years now, the provision of jobs has been an acute social problem. The city has taken measures to reduce unemployment such as development of small industries, handicrafts and services, transfer of the inhabitants to new settlement areas, labour cooperation with foreign countries, etc. It has been able to provide jobs for some 100,000 people a year. Nevertheless, in face of the difficulties encountered in production and business, state-run establishments tend to reduce their personnel. In addition, about 20,000 people are reaching working

age each year. As a result, there are now in Ho Chi Minh City about 230,000 jobless people, 80 to 90 percent of whom are youth.

The most common form being used by the city administration is to set up employment agencies. These establishments would help the unemployed find suitable jobs, and at the same time organise an appropriate vocational training for those who desire.

Another way of giving employment to the jobless persons is to set up labour supplying and service centres. In the past two years over 20,000 persons applying for jobs and for vocational training have been introduced to production and business establishments. 11,300 women have been trained for working in the textile, garment, chemical service and tourist industries, mention is also to be made of over 5,000 demobilised armymen who could receive adequate training and find the suitable jobs for their abilities.

Due attention has been recently focused on the expansion of private undertakings and joint ventures between different production units in the city and also between the city and foreign countries. The city now has over 200 private enterprises and firms in full operation which, thereby, give employment to some 34,000 persons. Fifty joint ventures with foreign capital investment have taken on more than 10,000 workers. Noteworthy is the fact that the enterprise producing leather shoes and garments for export LEGAMEX [expansion unknown] has engaged 2,900 workers while the Vietnam Company of Animal Product (VISSAN) can employ as many as 2,800 people.

More and more jobs have been provided for workers following the gradual urbanization of suburban districts, the multiplication of commercial service stations, and the development of small industrial and handicraft sectors in the countryside.

In this way, many precincts of the city could provide employment for 6,000 to 10,000 persons in the two years 1988-1989.

Besides, the role of the family economy should also be recalled: developing the husbandry of milkcows and pigs, breeding poultry, making fine-art products, wickerwork and other items of bamboo, wood, rattan for export.

Another direction of the city administration's plan for solving unemployment is to resettle the unemployed in a sparsely populated areas. This measure would help create jobs for labourers and at the same time alleviate the population density in the city. However, it requires big investments (82 million and 186 million dong were invested respectively in 1988 and 1989). So it is not plain sailing to solve this matter in the condition of a rather tight state budget as it is now. Anyhow, 309 households with 11,414 members have been moved to new settlement areas.

Besides the creation of more jobs, another cause of concern is the inadequate skills and professional qualifications of the work in the city. At present, 95 percent of youth have not undergone any vocational training. The city administration is now joining forces with vocational training centres in organising suitable courses for unskilled workers. The city administration undertakes to supervise those vocational training courses opened by private groups and individuals, clubs and associations in order to avoid duplication and overlapping in the work of vocational training. It directs the centres toward the training of badly needed trades and professions such as [words indistinct] products processing, garment and leather goods, making services in foreign languages, ship building and repairing.

Vocational training centres have also done their utmost in terms of vocational guidance and training for the adolescents who have not yet reached working age to get them prepared to enter life with adequate scientific and technological knowhow.

In the current year, Ho Chi Minh City has provided jobs for 91,000 persons. This figure is not bigger than that of the preceding years but it is quite important because the proportion of unemployed workers getting a stable job is much higher: 62,000 persons. The city precincts are now conducting surveys in order to work out training schemes and provide jobs in the areas under their authority.

Australia

Hawke: Iraq's Conditions 'Completely Unacceptable'

BK1602073291 Melbourne Overseas Service on English 0500 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Mr. Hawke, says Iraq's conditions for a withdrawal from Kuwait are completely unacceptable. However, as Linda Maltrem reports, Mr. Hawke believes Iraq's announcement of the conditions may be a sign that its resolve is weakening.

[Begin recording] [Maltrem] Mr. Hawke says Saddam Hussyn may be trying to weaken the coalition, perhaps seeing the Soviet Union and Iran have weak links, but the prime minister says the world is determined about what must happen.

[Hawke] Saddam Hussyn was quite unconditional in the way he invaded and entered Kuwait and he has got to be equally unconditional in getting out.

[Maltrem] The only positive aspect of the offer, Mr. Hawke says, is that it may be the first time that Iraq's resolve was weakening with the prime minister speculating Saddam may be softening up his own people for an eventual surrender. Mr. Hawke said the only time the world will discuss Saddam's conditions is after he has left Kuwait. [end recording]

Hawke Supports Soviet, Iranian Peace Attempts

BK1602080091 Melbourne Overseas Service on English 0500 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Hawke, said the danger facing Australia's warships in the Gulf could increase if they have to move further north to assist in the ground offensive against Iraq.

A Radio Australia correspondent in Canberra, Graeme Wilde, reports Mr Hawke foreshadowed the threat when he briefed the Labor caucus today.

[Begin recording] [Wilde] Mr Hawke told caucus the ships are currently reasonably safe, but if the ground war began they could be moved further into the Gulf to enforce amphibious landings and consequently, could be more exposed to mines and missile attacks. The prime minister says the war is at a critical stage, but he still does not regard a ground war as inevitable. He says while negotiations could still produce a result, it is doubtful, but he supports attempts by the Soviet Union and Iran, provided they are consistent with UN resolutions. [end recording]

Labor Party Split Over Gulf War Policy

BK1802091091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Canberra, February 18 (AFP)—The ruling parliamentary Labor Party split Monday after its 31-member left wing rebelled over Gulf war policy, condemning civilian deaths caused by Australia's allies.

A two-hour meeting of the left faction passed a unanimous resolution calling for peace talks and declaring there should be a cease-fire as soon as it was clear Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait.

"The parliamentary left condemns the killing of innocent civilians at Fallujah and the Baghdad bunker," the resolution said.

However it also deplored "the unprovoked attack on Israel with Scud missiles."

The motion did not criticise Prime Minister Bob Hawke, and the government itself, which has sent warships to the Gulf, is not at risk.

Left wing leader Bruce Childs rejected a United States claim that the Iraqi civilian bunker in Baghdad bombed by the U.S. last week was a military command and control centre.

Mr. Hawke has said he accepts the U.S. explanation of the bombing, in which more than 300 people were reported killed.

He and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans have said civilian deaths were inevitable in war, saying the blame lay with Iraq for invading Kuwait on August 2.

They have also maintained peace talks should not start until any withdrawal begins.

The rising civilian death toll and new international diplomatic moves aimed at avoiding a bloody ground war appear to have intensified the left's disapproval of the government's position and triggered its revolt.

Britain acknowledged Monday a bombing attack on a bridge went astray and hit a crowded marketplace in the town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

Mr. Hawke told parliament Iraq's latest offer to withdraw from Kuwait had too many conditions to be taken seriously and could be a propaganda attempt to avoid an allied ground attack.

However, Mr. Hawke said he hoped the Iraqi offer was a sign that Baghad recognised that it had no choice but to withdraw and avoid greater calamity.

Minister Says PRC Ties 'Could Soon Normalize'

BK1902062291 Melbourne Overseas Service on English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Senator Gareth Evans, has indicated that his government could soon normalize relations with China. Sanctions were imposed when the Beijing government began its crackdown against the prodemocracy movement.

Senator Evans said the federal government was giving close consideration to the small number of remaining restrictions. He said its decision was influenced by the generally lenient sentences given to prodemocracy supporters in recent trials in China.

Senator Evans said Australia's attitude was shared with several other countries that thought the situation in China was improving.

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